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# WINTER SOLDIER



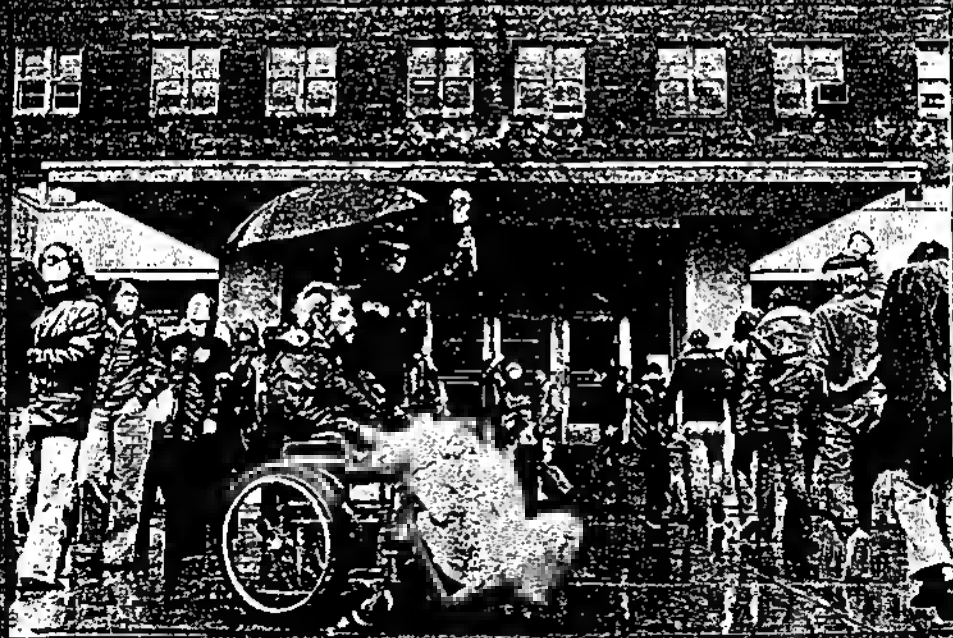
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WILLIAM WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION



## PEOPLE FIGHT V.A. CUTBACKS



INDOCHINA ————— CENTERFOLD

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LOCAL ADDRESS

# EDITORIAL

# CONTRACT FALLS SHORT COAL MINERS

January 27, 1975 is the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreements. That date marked the end of one stage in the liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people--they had defeated the military power of the US government by forcing the withdrawal of US combat troops from Vietnam. It also marked a victory for the US people who, through mass actions which brought hundreds of thousands of people into the streets, demonstrated to the US government that it must finally abide by the demands of the Indochinese and American people and sign the agreements.

On January 27, 1973, while we were joining in celebration of the victory, we were also warning that US involvement in Southeast Asia would not end with the signing of the Agreements. The past two years have proved that prediction all too true--the US government continues to prop up the corrupt regimes of military dictators in Cambodia and South Vietnam, regimes that would have collapsed long ago if it were not for US government support. The final victory of the Indochinese people is still waiting fulfillment. And, for the people of Cambodia, South Vietnam, and Laos, the fighting is still a daily part of their life.

January 27, 1973 also marked a change in the anti-war movement which had been growing in its resistance to the war. Many of us who were in the middle of that struggle have seen some of the errors which we made--that the anti-war movement often failed to identify the real enemy as the imperialist system which lay behind that war, not just the war itself. As a result, we did not mobilize the masses of people who were opposed to the war into the larger struggle against that system.

January 27, 1975, when VVAW/WSO chapters around the country will be carrying out actions to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Agreements, is one more opportunity for us to bring to the American people the message about the nature of imperialism: a system which makes wars like the Indochina war inevitable and, at the same time creates unemployment, exploitation and repression here at home. As we build for January 27th actions in our daily work, we reaffirm our unity and solidarity with the people of Indochina in the struggle against the enemy which oppresses us all: US imperialism.



UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY



Rank & File Coal Miners Protest Contract

After a 25-day coal strike, miners slowly began returning to work on Dec. 6th. The recent strike marked the expiration of a 3-year contract between the United Mine Workers (UMW) and the Bituminous Coal Operator's Association -- the bargaining group which represents most of the major coal producers. With a long history of "No Contract -- No Work," 120,000 miners went on strike on Nov. 12th. This strike deeply affected the production of 3/4 of the country's coal.

Though the new UMW contract was ratified by a slim majority of rank-and-file miners (56%), there has been much out-spoken opposition to the final package negotiated by Arnold Miller (UMW President) and the coal owners. One of the demands of the miners was for a pay increase -- an increase that would meet the financial problems resulting from the current economic crunch. An 18% wage increase for the next 3 years was negotiated, but it still won't cut it as far as the miners are concerned. As one 25-year-old miner said, "We got a 20% raise last time and only 18% this time, with inflation getting worse. Sure, they say fringe benefits will bring it over 60%, but I'm young--I need money now." Based on the wage provision in the new contract, if inflation continues at its present level for the next 3 years, miners will have received only a 5% wage increase by Nov. 1977. Also, the 8% ceiling on the cost-of-living escalator is totally unrealistic. By the government's own statistics, the cost-of-living is rising over 12% a year.

The major criticism by rank-and-file miners of the contract is the absence of a right-to-strike clause, allowing miners to walk off the job over unsafe working conditions. The right-to-strike was the primary demand raised by the miners with regard to safety and decent working conditions. On Sept. 3rd Arnold Miller said, "The lives and safety of American coal miners are not negotiable items to the UMW." However, Miller changed his tune and ended up selling out the demand which has be-

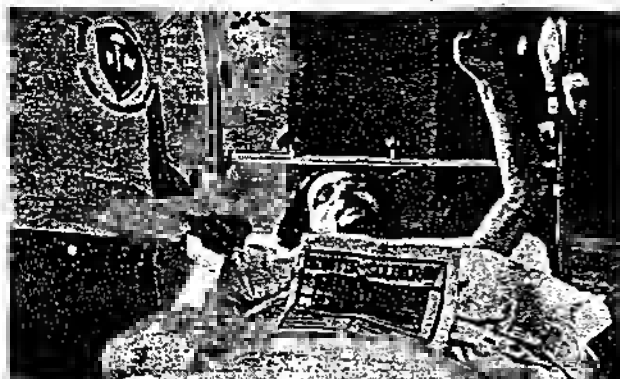
come basic to life in the coal fields. Under the new contract, miners still do not have the right to strike and disputes over conditions in the mines will still be settled by government inspectors or arbitrators. If these officials decide the miners do not have a legitimate grievance, the miners will be "subject to appropriate disciplinary action." Based on the government's practice, this will mean that officials will move quickly to try to penalize safety-conscious workers so as to try to stop the tide of dissent over working conditions and prohibit miners from uniting together and rising up against the often deadly mines.

There were some improvements in the new contract that did not exist in the 1971 agreement. There are improvements in retirement benefits, medical coverage has been extended to cover disabled miners and widows, there is better sick pay and accident benefits. Improvements in these areas of benefits were necessary to help insure the welfare of the miners, but they don't stack up when compared to the lousy wage increase and the lack of a right-to-strike clause. As one miner put it, "With coal profits up 181%, it's just not good enough."

So, the struggle of the miners continues. Demands for decent working conditions were not met in the recent contract strike, so we can bet that the miners will resort to the only means left to them to protect themselves -- the "illegal" wildcat strike. The new 3-year contract is not going to really help the miners meet the basic necessities of life, and though there are gains in the new contract, the struggle to stay alive in the mines and to protect the only way they have of winning demands -- their right to strike -- has not yet been won. The people of this country have a responsibility to continue to support this vital struggle of the coal miners -- a struggle which is important in terms of the living and working standards of all people.

## Cutbacks Planned

# VETS FIGHT V.A.



Building Solidarity With VA Patients In Milwaukee

In the face of the current economic crisis in this country, vets from New York to California are lighting hack against the government's inability to deal with their vital needs. Even as President Ford was vetoing the current GI Bill increases, vets were taking direct action to protest the inhuman treatment forced upon them by the Veterans Administration. In Los Angeles, one vet found it necessary to hold three hostages at gunpoint so he could get to talk to a VA doctor. In Chicago another vet barricaded himself in a VA office, broke windows and set a fire because the VA would not find a doctor to talk to him.

On November 18th, approximately 300 angry veterans went to Washington DC to demand that Ford sign the GI Bill. These veterans marched down the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue without permits, toward the White House despite attempts by the weak-kneed organizers and police to keep them on the sidewalks. Demonstrations have occurred in city after city by VVAW/WSO chapters in organizing veterans and non-veterans into the fight for decent benefits for all veterans and for a single-type discharge.

### VETS GET CRUMBS FROM GI BILL

Last month Congress passed a new GI Bill that would increase payments for fulltime institutional training for vets. The increases would include raises in the monthly payments from \$220 to \$270 for single veterans, \$261 to \$321 for veterans with one dependent, \$298 to \$336 for two dependents and an additional \$22 for each other dependent. The Bill also would allow vets to borrow \$600 per year for school tuitions, while at the same time extending school payments from 36 to 45 months.

President Ford, showing utter contempt for all veterans, vetoed the Bill saying that it was inflationary. Congress overrode the veto and the bill became law. But while Congress will fall over themselves saying they are the friends of the veterans, the bill, which increases

the payments by 22.7%, is totally out of line with the Bills passed after World War II. The present GI Bill would have to be increased by 300% to match post WWII payments. And even as this bill was passed, another bill was in committee, which would, for the first time, put a tax on the payments given to disabled veterans of all wars!

Not even the recently passed bill increasing pension payments for veterans is adequate given the crisis in the economy. Although this increase would be by 12%, that is also the rate of annual inflation, which means that next year vet pensions will be falling behind again. It won't even give vets on pensions time to breathe before it again begins to bite into their pockets.

### THEY SAY CUTBACK...

While the situation facing veterans is bad enough, the government is cutting back on payments to others as well. Recently Ford proposed cutbacks in payments to the elderly; unemployment compensation is being cut back; there are cuts in food stamp payments and other services. As the crisis of imperialism deepens, these cutbacks will fall on the heads of the working people.

Some of these cutbacks are being directed towards the VA facilities. While the patient-to-staff ratio is one of the lowest in the country in VA hospitals the VA plans to begin layoffs of part-time personnel beginning on January 1st. Already it is known that the Woods VA Hospital in Milwaukee will be letting go 13 part-time workers. These layoffs, coupled with the policy of not hiring people for vacated positions in the hospital will cause an already disastrous situation to become even worse. These cutbacks are seriously threatening the safety of the VA patients. At the Woods Hospital, for instance, the hydro-treatment facility has been reduced from about 5 workers to one. Several nurses and therapists' assistants were laid off leav-

two full-time therapists. When one stroke, it left the facility with only one therapist who must take care of 43 patients a day. In many instances these patients must remain in the whirlpool baths unattended as this one worker is also responsible for taking the patients to the elevators. In the event that something happened during his absence, it could result in the death of a patient. And the administration at Woods won't hire anyone to help the therapist and the patients, because to do so would put the hospital in the 'red', according to the VA Administrator.

As the economic crisis deepens, the system will try and pit VA workers against veterans, blaming layoffs on the 'inflationary' increases in care for vets. It will do the same elsewhere to all workers, blaming layoffs on striker's demands, etc. But this will not work.

### WE SAY FIGHT BACK!

Recently in Chicago, about 300 veterans angrily questioned a panel of people including representatives of the city office of Manpower, the VA, a State's Attorney, the Red Cross and the American Veterans Committee. The vets wanted to know why they couldn't get their discharges upgraded, and why they found it almost impossible to get loans through the VA. One speaker on the panel who is a banker also, told one vet that he wouldn't give him a loan because the VA only guaranteed 90% return on the loan. This response thoroughly exposed the sham of the presentation to a great majority of the vets. The officials had no answers and were afraid of the angered vets. All the officials could say was to have faith in the system. The vets knew that they were being handed a bull story and the answers didn't change any real problems in their daily lives. Many walked out.

Armed with the knowledge that the system doesn't work and understanding that the fight for decent benefits for all veterans must be linked up with a demand for no VA workers layoffs, veterans, VA workers and others can unite to win these demands. VVAW/WSO chapters around the country have begun to seriously take up the struggles of all veterans. The struggle of veterans is a very real thing, that affects the lives of millions of vets and their families. It is a struggle against the imperialist system; the system that is responsible for inadequate medical care, massive layoffs, wars of aggression and domination in Indochina and the Middle East. It is a system that will try and split vets from VA workers, as it will try and split blacks from whites. The only real chance that people have is to unite to fight the system. As shown by the spontaneous demonstrations and the outrage of the vets in Washington DC and Chicago, and the support for the countless demonstrations of VVAW/WSO chapters, people are fighting for real -- around the struggles of all veterans.

DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS!

# TWO SYSTEMS

VVAW/WSO has been saying that the system of imperialism, because it is based on the insatiable drive for profits for the rich few, can never meet the needs of the people, and that this system will be in one crisis after another. The current crisis that the US is undergoing firmly demonstrates that this view is right. The inevitable had to happen: overproduction and inflation dovetailing into a recession has put the crunch on.

Once again, the system of imperialism presents the American people with bitter contradictions--a great picture of real abundance on the one hand, with commodities of every kind and description locked away in warehouses; while, on the other hand, masses of able-bodied men and women, laid-off from their jobs, are shoved down into poverty, going from unemployment to welfare to charity. Cities across the country are reporting a sharp increase in applicants for welfare, food stamps and other relief as the unemployment rolls mount and benefits are exhausted. Lines outside welfare and food stamp offices are stretching for many blocks, and hundreds are being turned away for lack of office staff to handle them. Even charity organizations are reporting huge lines at their soup kitchens.

How large is this glut of unsold production? The auto industry, one of the basic industries in the country, paints a graphic picture of abundance versus sales. Time magazine published a photo of the vast Michigan State Fairgrounds that showed it carpeted from fence to fence with unsold automobiles from 1974 lines. Production had been running at over 8 million units per year up until the massive layoffs started, and now it is down to 5.4 million units. That leaves a surplus of 3 million cars that nobody can afford to buy.

The whole of industry is in a similar state. Business Week, a major voice for corporate interests, in its



Food Prices Skyrocketing In US



Abundant Food & Stable Prices In China

November survey of consumer demand, noted that the demand is shrinking, not growing. Goods are not moving off the retail shelves (being priced out of reach); retailers slow down orders to wholesalers; wholesalers cease ordering from manufacturers; and manufacturers stop buying materials, parts and machinery from each other. At the same time, industry has overproduced in an effort to cash in on high prices. The US has the productive power to feed, clothe, and house the entire population of the US, with jobs for everyone, while still leaving a surplus, but is incapable of doing it while run for the profits of the rich.

In deep contrast to the US current economic problems stands the Peoples Republic of China. This country of over 800 million people, industrially far behind the US, has had stable prices for over 25 years, while feeding, clothing, educating the entire country. The People's Republic inherited an economy rampant with inflation from the earlier Chiang Kai-shek regime--several hundred percent a year. Yet they brought this under control in a few short years and they have kept prices down ever since. Any changes that have taken place, apart from some seasonal variations of some food stuffs, have been downward.

The sharpest reductions have been in the costs of medicines, the prices of which average only 20% of what they were in 1950. As part of the national policy of raising living standards in the countryside, and encouraging agricultural production, the state has several times increased the prices it pays for farm and sideline products (non-agricultural goods produced by commune members) and at the same time reduced the prices of such production aids as farm machinery, chemical fertilizer, pesticides and diesel oil. The prices paid by the state to the communes for cereals doubled since 1950 while retail prices have remained stable.

In the US, people are inclined (and encouraged) to view inflation as inevitable. How has China solved the problem? First and fundamentally, by socialist planning and socialist production. Output quotas and prices are set and adjusted to meet the needs of the people and of the developing economy. Both industrial and agricultural production have soared in the past quarter-century, and this growth has provided a solid material foundation for a stable currency and stable market prices.

The national budgets are balanced, with small surplus, permitting careful regulation of the amount of currency in circulation. Reflecting the peoples' confidence in its stability, bank deposits by individuals have grown tremendously. The domestic economies of many other countries are at the mercy of foreign trade, but China, while promoting trade with some 150 countries, has insulated its domestic market. Imported consumer goods are sold at prices comparable to those of Chinese-produced goods, while exports are sold at world market prices.

Even though wages and living standards are behind those in the US, China is a developing country, moving ahead to match the needs of its people. But the Chinese have what working people everywhere wish they had: assurance of the necessities of life while producing some of the not-so-necessary.

Comparing the two country's economies clearly points out the difference between a system run in the interests of the masses of people and one that leaves its people at the mercy of profit-seeking companies whose only interest is in getting richer. As long as imperialism exists, this can never change for the people of the United States.

(Thanks to China And US, a publication of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association for some of the material in this article.)



# RESISTERS' BOYCOTT IS GREAT SUCCESS

When asked why the Ford clemency program is not working, Charles Goodell, chairman of the Presidential Clemency Board stated, "I don't understand it. Those who are eligible under our program have nothing to lose by applying." These who are eligible, in fact, have everything to gain by not entering the sham program. The Ford clemency is designed as a punitive measure against those who correctly resisted the imperialist war in Indochina and the racist and repressive conditions of the military. As war resisters have committed no crime, they have no reason to submit to this clemency program. Recognizing this, the exile community, along with many organizations in the US, has called for a boycott of the plan as part of the overall struggle for universal and unconditional amnesty.

And the boycott is working! The government's own figures make this point most clearly. The Selective Service System states that there are 6,000 draft resisters under indictment. Only 123 have entered the program. The Defense Department says that there are now 12,500 military resisters. Only 1,450 have applied. Most of these people that have entered the program have done so by surfacing from living 'underground' in the US. The number of draft and military resisters that have come from exile abroad number fewer than 150.

The single largest group of people in need of universal and unconditional amnesty are the veterans with less-than-honorable discharges. There are 588,321 such discharges. The government states that of these only 40,000 are eligible for the clemency plan; those vets that received bad discharges due to being charged with AWOL over 30 days. The second largest category of war resisters are those in the US that are civilians who resisted the war and were convicted of crimes against the state. Of these two largest categories, veterans and civilians who have done time in jails, stockades and/or received bad discharges for being AWOL, only 800 have applied.

The government is desperately trying to sell the Ford plan. They are resorting to all sorts of figure games and deceitful tactics. For instance, because of the small numbers of returnees, they are trying to mislead people by giving out a lower number of those eligible. On August 19th, when Ford announced at the VFW convention in Chicago that he was planning to give clemency to war resisters, he stated that there were 50,000 deserters and draft resisters. Today, the government claims that there are 18,000 who fit into these categories. The discrepancy in three months time is 30,000 resisters! What happened to them?? Commander-in-Chief Ford

could be stripped of his command for the equivalent of two full divisions of federal

In another deceitful tactic, James Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense, is sending letters to families of resisters urging them to urge the resisters to accept the Ford program. The letter tells the families that the resisters won't have to wear uniforms, get haircuts, or "otherwise subject themselves to normal military routing." "Such benevolence from the government!"

The most truthful utterance from this government about the clemency has been offered by Attorney General Saxbe who stated, "Many draft evaders are highly suspicious of the Justice Department's motives."

The real reason for the failure of the clemency is because resisters know that their actions were correct in fighting against the imperialist war in Indochina and the racist and repressive military. The Ford plan would try to force resisters into falsely admitting that they have committed a crime, when the real criminals are the big businesses, the government officials and their enforcer arm, the military, who waged the war in Indochina for their own profit.

The boycott is working -- and all resisters should continue to fight for universal and unconditional amnesty!

CONTINUE THE BOYCOTT !!

# AMNESTY TOUR



Steve Grossman Speaking At Wash., D.C. Rally

(We received the following communication from Steve Grossman, a draft resister who recently toured the Northeast. Steve spoke in 13 cities to the need to continue to fight for universal and unconditional amnesty. He came to the US to speak during the 15 day grace period in the Ford clemency. Steve refused to accept the plan and returned to Toronto on Thanksgiving Day where he will continue to work with AMEX-Magazine and the Toronto American Exiles Association.)

"The tour deepened my own understanding of the amnesty question and the necessity for strong unity among all groups in need of amnesty - those who believed the lies that surrounded the war or were forced by unemployment and poverty to fight it, and ended up resisting the war or the military's racism and oppression from INSIDE, and those who resisted by going AWOL or refusing to be inducted.

"The first group is now punished for their right and necessary resistance with a punitive less-than-honorable discharge. The others face civil and military charges. We are also joined by thousands of civilian resisters in prison or with records - they need amnesty too.

"The tour reminded me of the need to keep our demand for a single-type discharge up front in all our amnesty work. Getting rid of the present punitive discharge system will remove one of the most repressive weapons the government has for controlling resistance to genocidal, imperialist wars. The single-type discharge will move us far forward in our fight for the right to resist unjust wars - that right is the very meaning of universal and unconditional amnesty.

"The tour offered me the chance to travel to 13 cities throughout the Northeast. Starting in Louisville, Kentucky where I had the opportunity to meet with Representatives from the nationwide amnesty movement through 12 other cities where VVAW/WSO arranged public meetings and media presentation I had the chance to see the REAL grassroots strength of the movement for universal and unconditional amnesty."

**multi-racial unity forged**

# GIs STRIKE IN BERLIN

Following on the heels of a rapidly escalating struggle against military haircut regulations, 27 Black, White, and Chicano soldiers of C Battery, 94th Artillery, Berlin Brigade, went out on strike on November 25th. Their action came as a solidarity action for Black haircut resister Rufus Thompson and in protest against steadily worsening working and living conditions in their battery. At 8 AM on the 25th, they refused to fall out for formation and assembled in the snack bar. When their battery commander, Cpt Louis Trevathan, arrived on the scene at about 8:30, they presented him with a list of 15 demands and a statement about their reasons for striking. After reading through the statement and demands, Trevathan looked at the men and asked, "Okay, so what's the problem?"

During the course of the morning, one of the battery officers, LT Linski, read the men the mutiny act and said they could all be hanged. Shortly thereafter about 7 men decided to go back to work. One of the remaining 20 commented later, "I've already been hanging around here long enough. I just hope they use a new rope when they hang us this time." Unknown to the strikers at the time, a busload of MPs had been put on alert to move in on them and six carloads of MPs were waiting at a nearby NCO club as a back-up force. Charges were being drawn up and a lawyer from JAG (military lawyer), Cpt Carl Meyer had been called to the Battery to read the strikers their rights. However, by the time he got there he was told that he was no longer needed. By now the press had picked up word of the strike and that, combined with the resoluteness of the strikers not to return to work forced the brass to back down.

The men were ordered to return to their rooms at about 11:15, where NCOs kept watch on them. They were even escorted to the latrine and brought their lunch in the barracks to keep them isolated from the rest of the battery and from the rest of McNair Barracks. They were still on strike. The command, on the other hand, was putting out the story throughout the day that the men had gone back to work. The GI Counselling Center (a GI project near McNair), which was in contact with the strikers after they returned to their rooms, was able to set the lie straight and give the press the true story.

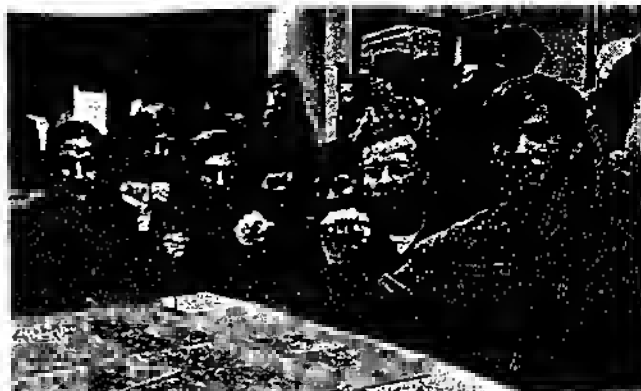
Around 1 PM the now 17 remaining strikers, were told that an "Investigating Board" had been set up by the brigade to hear their grievances and demands. To this the GIs responded by each going in and reading their statement:

"Rufus Thompson, the only Black GI involved in the haircut struggle in Berlin, has been pressured and threatened to make him and his involvement in the struggle. This has been a racist tactic by the Brass to make the struggle an all-white, segregated movement. He resisted, so they dropped all charges in order to kick him out of Berlin and remove him from the support he has here.

"We have come to the last possible action on our part to change the conditions under which we work and live. We are human. We have minds to think with, but our thoughts and feelings are constantly abused by our "superiors." We are tired of being abused. We are tired of being ignored. We will make ourselves heard one way or another.

"We have tried every avenue of approach to this problem and gone through almost every channel. These avenues and channels are too slow and unreliable, we have discovered. First we turned around and asked our commander what was going on--no answer from him. We asked him to stop or at least try to stop manipulation of EMs in our unit. He ignored us, probably because he is the main manipulator. We tried JAG, but we found out that they were making deals behind our backs, so we couldn't trust them. We couldn't contact Congress since the communication between here and Congress is very slow and very, very poor for the EMs. We have only one alternative. That alternative is to STRIKE!"

Now the strikers face military punishment and several were being court-martialed (Winter Soldier has not heard the outcome of these trials as yet), but the demands they have raised are being taken up by others throughout the Berlin Brigade. These demands go way beyond haircuts. Besides the demand that SP/4 Thompson not be transferred and all charges against him be dropped, the de-



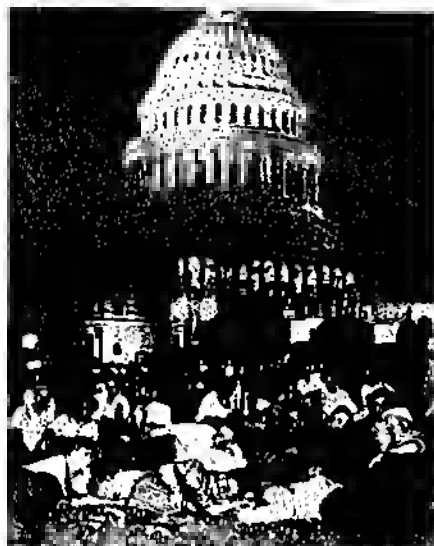
Berlin Brothers collect 1200 signatures on support petition.

mands include: there be no transfers in the unit without the knowledge and approval of the men in it; a Morale and a Race Relations Council be set up whose members would be elected by the EM themselves and not appointed; days off be given out by the section chiefs to their own section; there be only one inspection a week and only one standby inspection every other week; there be more privacy in EMs rooms (room arrangements, posters, etc); EM be able to lock their doors when sleeping; all married personnel have means of getting housing and transportation for their families, and that all personnel involved in the protest not be prosecuted. They also had demands around EM removing leadership they felt to be unfit or racist.

The men of C/94th are tight. Blacks, Whites, and Chicanos are standing together. And it is this unity that has been one of the basic keys to their strength and success; a fact that has not gone unnoticed by the Brass which is doing all it can to try and divide them. The unity shown by the EM has defeated the Brass and the militance of the men is spreading throughout the military. Hair reg struggles have started in Hawaii and Okinawa and over 1200 Berlin GIs signed a petition to end the regulations. The day following the strike, a sister unit of C/94th refused to come to attention at morning formation. This type of militance has the Brass on the run and the GIs will not be defeated.



# VETS FLOOD CAPITOL



Part of 25,000 vets in DC to demand bonus-camping on Capitol grounds.

In the spring of 1932, while veterans all across the U. S. were mobilizing and pushing their way towards Washington, DC to demand their bonus pay for World War I service, the nation's leaders were busy preparing to try and deal with them. They used every dirty trick they knew to head the vets off before they could reach DC: lies, deception, threats and open force. When this failed, the government tried to co-opt the movement, divide it, and negate its real purpose. By the time the main body of Bonus Marchers reached DC, the government had set up a full-blown "pacification" program to destroy their movement.

Until the U. S. Army took over the job and routed the vets in a bloody attack on July 28th, the visible spearhead of this "pacification" program was DC Police Chief Pelham D. Glassford, a former Army General. Glassford's plan was to capture the leadership of the Bonus Marchers, keep them harmlessly cooling their heels in a camp he set up for them in Anacostia flats and convince them to leave DC at the earliest possible date. The first few dusty Bonus Marchers pulled into town on May 23rd. Three days later, the few that had made it to DC (the larger contingents of vets were still on the road) got together in an initial meeting and formed themselves into the Bonus Expeditionary Force (BEF). Although there would be other groups, the BEF was the largest single group of Bonus Marchers. In a pre-planned set-up, Chief of Police Glassford was selected

as the BEF's new "Secretary-Treasurer." The travesty was complete. The head of the police force that was under orders to destroy the Bonus March was one of its major leaders!

Glassford found willing allies in the original "leaders" of the veterans as they arrived in DC. Primary among them was W. W. Waters, head of the contingent leaving Oregon in early May. Waters, with the help of Glassford, was soon named "commander in chief" of the BEF. W. W. Waters and others like him were scared silly of the strength and militance of the thousands of vets pouring into Washington and were more than willing to go along with Glassford's gameplan.

Glassford and his buddies were able to get away with their ruse by playing on the naive faith the vets had in the American system and by labeling anyone who disagreed with them as "reds." Most of the Bonus Marchers arrived in Washington without any real organization or leadership. With the notable exception of the work done by a fighting rank-and-file vets group, the Workers Ex-Servicemen's League (WESL), the Bonus March was basically a spontaneous action. And it was precisely this spontaneous, unorganized character of the Bonus March that made it, initially, such easy prey for its enemies.

The WESL had sent out a call for a major demonstration on June 8th. This demonstration was something Glassford couldn't stop: most of the vets knew about it and expected to have it. Since Glassford and Waters knew they couldn't let the Bonus Marchers get involved in a real demonstration led by the fighting WESL, they decided to try and split them up into two camps. Three days before the WESL's demonstration, the "leaders" of the BEF decided to call another demonstration for the night of June 7th. Helped out by the press (which tried to distort who had actually called for the June 8th demo in banner headlines screaming "Radicals 'Usurp' Demonstration"), Glassford ballyhooed his demonstration as a "red, white, and blue" parade as opposed to the "red" parade of June 8th.

As part of this divide and conquer plan, Glassford and the rest of the Washington officials manufactured a vicious "red scare" smear campaign long enough to confuse people and break up the chances for the WESL's June 8th demo coming off. At one point, he issued a press statement saying that "more than 1,000 communists, fully ar-

med, were descending on the Capitol from Philadelphia." Later he charged that the WESL had ordered a riot for the 8th of June. Rather than allow the split to develop any further than it had already, the WESL cancelled their parade and called on all vets to march in the June 7th parade in a show of mass unity.

While the parade the night of the 7th was certainly imposing, with over 8,000 vets marching down Pennsylvania Avenue, it definitely wasn't what it could have been. It was, as per design, a pacification effort geared to let the vets feel like they were doing something without letting things get the least bit out of hand. The marchers were utterly segregated from the thousands of cheering supporters that lined the route of march, funneled through a gauntlet of cops and steered safely away from what should have been their primary targets: Congress and the White House. It was a march consciously set up to avoid winning any real victories for the vets. While all the WESL and BEF members marched together, the divisions created by Glassford and Waters kept them from really consolidating their ranks.

Back in the BEF camp in Anacostia, a special BEF "MP" squad meted out beating and floggings to any "red" who dared to disagree with the way things were being run. Most were then simply chased out of camp; a few were found floating in the Potomac river. The only rank-and-file leadership available was the WESL. Yet, to even get its newsletter, "Bonus Flashes," into camp was a dangerous smuggling effort. The divisions between the two camps were fiercely maintained. The largest body of Bonus Marchers was firmly under the control of the cops and cartists. But in the 10 hectic weeks that were to follow, this would dramatically change.

By the 15th of July, there were 25,000 vets and their families camped in DC with thousands more on the road. In Washington, some seized abandoned buildings to stay in. The larger body went to the muddy flats of Anacostia to live in crude tar paper shacks, tents, caves or to sleep on the ground. An angry tide of humanity was pouring into DC in response to the crushing economic depression that no amount of treachery or trickery could stop.

(Next: The Bonus March Continues)





# VICTORY TO

While the people of South Vietnam have long been suffering under the yoke of the Thieu regime, the struggle for freedom and democracy has been common to all people of the South. The Thieu regime has been a constant source of oppression and exploitation for the people of the South. The Thieu regime has been a constant source of oppression and exploitation for the people of the South. The Thieu regime has been a constant source of oppression and exploitation for the people of the South.

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On the domestic front, Thieu is under mounting pressure. Thousands of people are demonstrating in the streets for an end to his corrupt regime. Despite government bans on open demonstrations, there have been almost daily marches and rallies. Many of them in cities and towns outside of Saigon and therefore seldom even mentioned in the US press.

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After a year after the signing of the Peace in Laos, which Thieu's government in Vietnam has subverted the US government recognizes the





# VICTORY TO THE

While the people of South Vietnam have had national independence since 1954, they have suffered under a common external enemy, the French colonialists, and a common internal enemy, the American imperialists. No matter which foreign power was exploiting their country, the people of South Vietnam have demanded and heroically fought to free their country from exploitation, for the restoration of their country as an independent nation and for the rights to use the resources of their country for their own people. The second anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreement on Vietnam (and, a month later, the Geneva Conference) approaches, the peoples of South Vietnam continue their struggle against imperialism and the military power of the US government. The man schemes and devices used by the US government to prevent the Indochinese from achieving their freedom.

Much of this struggle takes place in the villages and hamlets of South Vietnam, where, in the large liberated zones, the people are working to repair the damages done by the war, to meet the immediate needs of the people for food, clothing, health care, childcare, decent housing, and education. All have been a major part of the struggle during the past year though the government has given no public notice, particularly in the liberated zones, which the governments and the US government work to meet the needs of the people. In contrast to the way in which the governments scramble to hoard power, points to the

Though President Thieu's government are not the only problem of South Vietnam, Thieu represents a regime isolated from the people, a regime of unresolvable problems on the domestic front. Thieu and his government have received substantial help of the US government to maintain their narrow perch of power.

On the battlefield, Thieu's forces have lost ground and men. In early December, fighting was taking place in Ba Xuyen, Mekong Delta. This rice-rich area has long been a food source for Saigon. The Liberation Forces there will intensify their economic crisis which has already reached proportions in Thieu's capital stronghold. The provincial capital of Tay Ninh, 65 miles north of Saigon, has also come under increasing pressure from Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) forces. According to statistics from the Saigon government (which means they are distorted to make Thieu look good as possible), there have been over 2000 casualties among the Thieu forces during the early December fighting. US-supplied planes, bombs, and other military hardware have been in heavy use, but the PRG forces continue to move forward as Thieu's followers grow more and more isolated inside the large cities.

On the domestic front Thieu is under mounting pressure: thousands of people are demonstrating in the streets for an end to his corrupt regime. Despite government bans on open demonstrations, there have been almost daily marches and rallies, many of them in cities and towns outside of Saigon and therefore seldom even mentioned in the US press.

The people of South Vietnam have been fighting for their freedom since 1954. They have fought against the French colonialists and the American imperialists. They have fought for their country to be free from exploitation and for the resources of their country to be used for their own people. They have fought for the restoration of their country as an independent nation and for the rights to use the resources of their country for their own people. They have fought for the restoration of their country as an independent nation and for the rights to use the resources of their country for their own people. They have fought for the restoration of their country as an independent nation and for the rights to use the resources of their country for their own people.

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Since the US government has completely freed hand in passing laws to Thieu and his government, they have been able to maintain the resistance to Thieu's regime. This has been coming from the people from different parts of the country. They are potential forces which could bring about the fall of Thieu's regime. The Paris Agreement, signed by Thieu, was a betrayal. The PRG was behind the September and October elections. Rev. Tran, a Catholic anti-corruption leader, has been calling for Thieu's overthrow. This demand has been called for in the Saigon Army. The US government has been supporting Thieu's regime.

Even in the US, many people are successfully fighting the people of South Vietnam. They are fighting against US imperialism. They are fighting against the US government. They are fighting against the US government. They are fighting against the US government. They are fighting against the US government. They are fighting against the US government.

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The US government has continually tried to keep the war in Cambodia from the American people. When Nixon ordered secret bombing of then neutral Cambodia, the Ford Administration has again and again pushed for an expanded role for the US in the war. Why is the government so persistent in conducting this war, and the war in all of Indochina. If everyone says that it was a mistake? The answer is obvious. The war and its continuation was and is not in the interests of profits, and US involvement. There is oil there and tin and other valuable resources. Imperialism can never let these potential profit-makers fall into the hands of the people who own those resources because the Cambodians would then use them for their

the Cambodian people--the right to use their own resources to improve their own lives. And their fierce struggle over the years, and the success that the struggle has demonstrated up to this point, indicate that the Cambodian people will be free of domination whether by the US directly or through a puppet such as Lon Nol. While the Cambodian people push forward, the American people also have a responsibility: only when the American people realize that the imperialist system and its inherent drive for profits is the real culprit, will US imperialism be ended. When this system is taken apart at the seams, then the rest of the world will see the end of US imperialist aggression. Militant support for the struggles of the people of Cambodia and Laos and South Vietnam is one way in which to help reach the goal that the American people share with the people of Indochina: to be rid of US imperialism.

## CHICAGO (3)

**VVA/MVO**

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# LAWTON TRIAL SET-JAN. 6

The third trial of Gary Lawton (member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization) is to begin on Jan. 6th. Lawton, a black man, is charged with the murder of two Riverside, California policemen who were ambushed in April, 1971. The 2 previous trials on these charges resulted in hung juries, with a majority of jurors voting for acquittal.

Since the conclusion of Lawton's second trial in Nov. 1973, there have been many developments surrounding this case. Charges against Gary's co-defendant, Zurehu Cardner, were dropped in Oct. 1974, because the District Attorney stated (after 3 years!) there was a lack of evidence. Though this dropping of charges is a real victory, other charges have been brought against members of the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee. In March, members of the RPPDC and VVAW/WSO were at the Riverside courthouse to show support for another RPPDC member, William Palmer, who was on trial for assault on a police officer. While at the courthouse, Chukia Lawton (Gary's wife), Zurehu Cardner and Rusty Bronaugh were brutally attacked by police. Cardner was beaten by 7 cops, Chukia was choked unconscious and all three were arrested. Since then, Rusty and Chukia have undergone a 3-week misdemeanor trial which ended in a hung jury. A retrial is set to begin on Jan. 13th.

The third trial of Gary Lawton began on Nov. 12th, but a shooting near the courthouse led to the most recent

postponement of the trial until January. On Nov. 13th, Jerald Monroe was stopped by police about two blocks from the courthouse. He shot and killed Officer Larry Walters, and in turn, Monroe was killed by other cops on the scene. Because this shooting occurred near a parking lot, some of the prospective jurors for Chukia and Rusty's trial witnessed the killings. Gun fire was heard in the jury room and discussed by prospective jurors for Lawton's trial. The defense felt that this shooting of a Riverside policeman would prejudice the jurors against Lawton, as would the news coverage of the killings. Walters is the third Riverside policeman to be killed in the line of duty in 28 years. The others are Christianson and Teel, whom Lawton is accused of murdering.

The continued frame-up trial of Gary Lawton and the repression in Riverside is not separate or isolated from the rest of the country, but is part of the increased nationwide attacks against Black, Chicano, Native American, Asian and white working people. There was Operation Zebra in San Francisco, where every Black man was stopped and searched by police. There is the continued attempt by the government, Teamsters Union and growers to smash the United Farm Workers. There was the murder of Tyrone Cuyton, a 14-year-old black youth who was gunned down by police in California's Bay Area. There are the decade-long trials of Russell Magee in California and Martin Sostre in New York.

These are not isolated government attacks, but part and parcel of an overall attack on minority people in particular, and poor and working people in general. At the same time, as the crisis in the economy increases, the burden for keeping high the profits of the corporate owners will more and more fall on the backs of the people of this country. The government knows this and will try its best to intimidate people into submissiveness and a fear of fighting back against their oppression.

One thing that has been learned through the four-year struggle to free Gary Lawton is that there is no justice in the Judicial system; that the state is not a neutral bystander insuring equality; and that one needs more than a good lawyer to beat a trumped-up charge. Another thing that has been learned is to why the struggle to free Lawton has come as far as it has is because of the mass struggle and support of the people of this country. This is what will free Gary Lawton! Today, that support is needed more than ever as the third trial approaches. For the much needed contributions and for more information, contact: RPPDC, PO Box 244, Riverside, California 92502.

**FREEDOM FOR ONE IS NOT  
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**VVAW/WSO**  
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**chicago, il 60657**  
**312 935-2129**

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☐ I am currently in prison  
☐ I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support your group  
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## Trial Ends In Victory

# LEAVENWORTH



Armando Miramon (top)

On Nov. 22nd, Armando Miramon was found not guilty by a jury in Wichita, Kansas of four counts of kidnapping and one count of assault on a guard. Miramon was the last of the Leavenworth Brothers to face charges in a court as a result of the July 31, 1973 rebellion which occurred in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary as prisoners united and rose up against the inhuman and repressive conditions within the prison. The trial of this Chicano brother began in late October, as did the trial of Jesse Lopez. All kidnapping charges against Lopez were dropped earlier in the trial because the government had failed to produce any evidence to warrant the continuation of the trial. An earlier trial of four black Leavenworth Brothers charged with assault and in-

clting to riot ended with a conviction of the brothers by an all-white jury.

The charges that Miramon was acquitted of include the allegation that during the Leavenworth uprising, four guards were held hostage by William Hurst and Miramon. (Hurst was the only white brother to be indicted. He never made it to trial because he found hanged in his cell in the Wyandotte County Jail earlier this year). The 4 hostages were released unharmed after Leavenworth's warden agreed to meet with a prisoner grievance committee and after Warden Daggett promised that there would be no reprisals.

This trial in Wichita was heard by an all-white jury composed of 7 women and 5 men. These jurors listened to testimony from a psychiatrist stating that on July 31st, Miramon was suffering from "sensory deprivation psychosis," a condition Miramon developed as a result of spending many months in the "hole" of Leavenworth. These men and women also sat through several weeks of testimony concerning the conditions within Leavenworth. It was

these conditions that led to the taking of hostages as the only means left to the prisoners struggling against the brutality of their lives.

When this jury returned a verdict of not guilty, many of them broke into tears and each of them stood to shake the hand of Miramon. As Miramon's attorney said, "The jury told us point blank that if they had not been presented with evidence of the inhuman prison conditions and the types of behavior which the conditions cause, there never would have been a chance for acquittal." Because of this, the verdict of this jury can mean only one thing -- a re-affirmation of the right to rebel against oppression. The repressive and exploitive conditions of prisons in general are under attack and, in essence, a jury in Wichita has just passed judgment on that system. They have decided that it was the conditions inside Leavenworth that are responsible for the rebellion of last year. Because of this, the people forced to live under those conditions had the right to rise up and make their demands known in the best and only way open to them. The outcome of this trial will have an effect that will penetrate the entire prison system and the movement of prisoners struggling against it. But even more than this, the victory in Wichita is a victory for all people fighting their oppression. Though bars may divide us, the struggles going on behind prison walls belong to us all.

## TRIAL UNDERWAY

# BOB HOOD

The trial of Bob Hood began on Dec. 2nd, but thus far, little progress has been made. Hood, a member of Oakland, California VVAW/WSO, was attacked and brutally beaten by Oakland PD Officer Ted Burrows on Feb. 6th. He was then arrested for "assaulting"

Burrows with a deadly weapon; a 3" pocket knife that was found in Bob's pocket after he had been handcuffed.

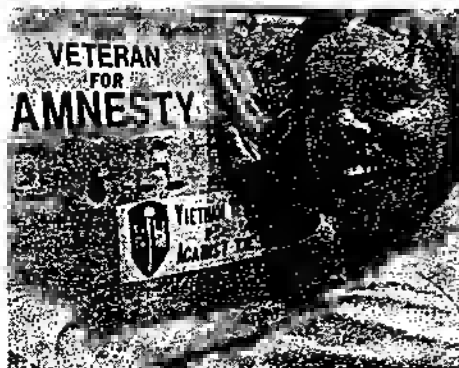
Though the trial has officially begun, the defense has already rejected two judges and is awaiting a superior court decision to get rid of a third. The first judge was pre-empted by the defense and stepped down. The second judge granted a motion for a mistrial and was thus disqualified from the case. The mistrial was granted as a result of a defense motion asking that the government not be allowed to introduce hearsay evidence concerning the SLA. The judge agreed to grant this motion if the defense would not introduce information concerning the past record of Officer Burrows. (Eleven citizens complaints have been filed against Burrows in the last 4 years -- eight of which were for brutality). Since the information concerning Burrows is crucial to Bob's defense, this was not accepted and the defense moved for, and was granted, a mistrial.

Now Bob's defense is trying to deal with the third judge appointed to hear the trial. The defense has challenged him because he had previously tried to get Bob's attorney thrown out of law school and prevent him from being admitted to the bar. As this third judge has refused to step aside, the matter has gone to the appeals court to be resolved. If the appeals court rules against Hood, the trial will probably begin the following day. If it rules in favor of Hood, a new judge will have to be selected and a new trial date set. Regardless of which judge hears the case, it looks as though the government will be allowed to use hearsay evidence concerning the SLA to prejudice the jury against Bob Hood.

The intent of this attack on Bob and VVAW/WSO is clearly to try and harass or destroy the organization in Oakland. But as Bob has pointed out, they have utterly failed in their efforts. Not only has the chapter survived the 11 months of harassment, but it has doubled its membership and expanded its work within the community.

(For more information contact: VVAW/WSO, 4919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609. Tel. (415) 658-7806).

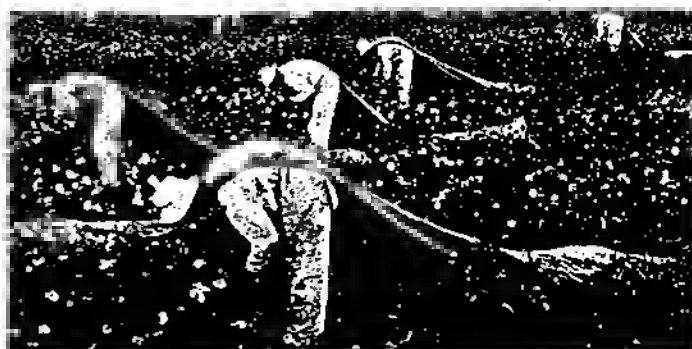
THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED!



Bob Hood

# PRISONS FOR PROFIT

When 43 inmates at McAlester Prison in Oklahoma burned down the "Rock" on October 19th (the "Rock" was the isolation unit, described by one prisoner as "a medieval chamber of horrors"), the State officials had a "solution" besides their normal brutality and repression. According to the Board of Corrections chairman, "Until we have work incentives to give an inmate a chance to prove himself worthy of being released into society, they are going to continue to pull stuff like this. Idleness breeds mischiefousness.... This means even if we have to bring in a mobile industry to put these hands to work." Acting Warden Roy Sprinkle immediately began advertising for bids on a new garment factory to make uniforms for guards and prisoners, and to rebuild the laundry and dry-cleaning factory along with the traditional license tag production.



Prisoners picking cotton on Parchment Farm, Miss.

Have prison officials decided to go all out for job-training and rehabilitation? Have they given up on their usual prehistoric methods of trying to beat prisoners into submission? Not at all, it's just that today, profits are talking!

A time-tested technique of the factory owner has been to pick up his factory and move it, especially when faced by militant workers. Often, this run-away shop has gone to the South where there are fewer unionized workers, and where wages are lower. More recently, the shop has run away overseas to places like Hong Kong or Taiwan or South Korea where workers can be paid almost nothing in comparison. The reason for this is simple: every penny less paid to the workers means one more penny for the owner to stick in his bulging profit pocket.

But, with growing liberation struggles overseas making foreign exploitation more difficult, the industrialists and corporate businessmen are also beginning to find that the US prison system is another target to exploit. While they can't yet move large factories into the prisons, they are more and more using slave labor which exists in prisons around the country. For the factory owner, the best possible situation is one where workers are supervised and controlled as tightly as possible on and off the job, where workers cannot strike, and where they are paid as little as possible--and prisons are perfect. Prison wages vary: at Attica they remain a straight 25¢ per day. In the state prison in Kentucky, a recent memorandum noted that the pay scales of \$3, \$5, \$7, and \$10 per month "will be a broken down scale of 15¢, 25¢, 35¢, and 50¢ per day." There are reports of wages as high as 47¢ per hour in some prisons!

Prisons--federal, state, and local provide a workforce large enough to be worth the time and energy to exploit: all told, there are some 600,000 men and women prisoners (according to government figures). Around \$165 million worth of goods are produced yearly by prison labor. Federal Prison Industries

(with George Meany as one of the directors) admits to profits of between 11% and 17% per year. At the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, 900 prisoners produced \$18 million worth of products, with a clear profit of \$4 million. Needless to say, none of this profit goes to the prisoner/workers.

These figures are just a small part of the actual value of work done by prisoners. Thousands of labor hours are spent in jobs which pay nothing at all--services to prison officials (cleaning, gardening, cooking, waiting tables, etc) farmwork, highway construction, forestry projects. As *Winter Soldier* was told by one prisoner in Louisiana who was transferred to a "work facility," "Now this institution isn't a prison that I was in, merely a boarding station for the State Police Division. Actually, it is the state police headquarters, and they set up a barracks there to keep inmates that help to maintain the equipment. By doing this, the state can get away without paying high bills and fees to free people to work these jobs--instead they just send to the State Penitentiary and get a few inmates and give them the job at a fee of 2¢ per hour."

Prison administrators, as in the case of McAlester, see work programs as a vital part of their program: not only do they have the convenient cover of "rehabilitation," and pick up on all the free services forced out of prisoners, but in many states they can lease out prisoners to private contractors for a fee--which goes directly to the administrator, never to the prisoners who do the work. In addition to the blatant corruption involved, work programs can often be used as the carrot by which to "reward" an obedient prisoner: even though wages are pitiful, they are better than nothing. And, because there are sometimes extra privileges involved, jobs can be held out as a temptation to convicts who inform or who stick to the official program. Leaders of militant prison resistance or organizing are, in many cases, never even considered for these jobs.

Prison industry is profit and free

services and pacification: one thing it is not is "rehabilitation." Ancient equipment, jobs like making license plates, personal services to guards or wardens, none of these provide the skills which lead to employment on the outside. What they do is take wages from workers who would be making the license plates or the clothes or whatever on the outside--why pay workers a minimum wage if prisoners can be forced to make it cheaper? And while prison industry does not now compete directly with outside industry (most prison products go to the state--military low quarters shoes, for instance, which are made at the Federal Prison at Leavenworth, Kansas), clearly the business world is looking more and more closely at the tempting profits to be squeezed from prison labor. Even now, that labor is often used instead of the workers who can least afford it. Throughout the south, prisoners do farm work in place of the migrant farmworkers, already one of the most miserably paid segments of American society. Yet, even their low wages can't compete with prison wages, nor can their work be enforced with whips, guns, or gas, all common at prison farms.

But the prison administrators are caught in a bind; while many of them would like to just lock up prisoners 24 hours a day (that's the simplest way to deal with prisoners who might otherwise rebel), that would mean no profits for the administrator or for the corporate financier of prison jobs. So the wardens put the prisoners to work. But work means that people are getting together, that they can talk with each other, that they can unite to fight their common oppression. It's no coincidence that several recent prison rebellions have taken place in the industrial areas of the prison--the garment factory in Starke, Florida; or the shoe factory in Leavenworth. Getting together means unity, and unity means struggle against the enemy--and to prisoners around the country, that enemy is clearly the system which makes profits from prison labor, and which needs those prisons in order to continue to exist.



# Vietnam Veterans Against the War

## Winter Soldier Organization

### Objectives



1. To struggle for an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, advisors, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the people of Southeast Asia based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.

2. To struggle for the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the people of the world. This includes the creation and maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination and the theft of the natural resources of this and other countries.

3. To struggle for the goal that all military people (Active duty, Reserve and National Guard) be afforded their constitutional rights which are denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We condemn the use of the National Guard, Reserve and Active-duty personnel as strikebreakers, and we support the efforts of servicepeople in the struggle against military oppression. We oppose the use of the military as an oppressive and policy-making force domestically and overseas.

4. To struggle for universal unconditional amnesty. This will include a single-type retroactive discharge for all vets, and amnesty for all persons in prison, underground, or in exile as a result of their resistance to the imperialist war machine as well as the clearing of all their existing civil and criminal records.

5. To struggle for decent benefits, full medical care (including the recognition of Post Vietnam Syndrome as a service-connected disability), and productive employment for all veterans with parity for all war veterans. We demand so and to discriminatory corporate hiring practices based on Vietnam-era service or Special Processing Numbers or descriptions, and the exploitation of veterans as a tool to divide the working class.

6. To struggle against sexism which is historically used as a tool of U.S. imperialism to prevent and destroy unity among the people and justify the oppression and exploitation of black world people at home and abroad. We

must fight this dehumanizing tactic which divides us, and strive to build unity between all people.

7. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in perpetuating war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which focuses an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subervient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This is institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile to nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining service women as subervient and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.

8. To struggle for the right of all workers to organize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We support progressive struggles aimed at improving working conditions.

9. To struggle against the use of the criminal justice system (police, courts, prisons, grand juries) as a tool of political oppression, recognizing that this system now serves the interests of the rich and powerful while suppressing the majority of poor and working people. We will fight for the freeing of all political prisoners.

10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

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UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

# OPERATION 'TAR BABY'

# SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa, a country with an overwhelming black population, has been ruled by its minority whites for over 100 years. It is one of the most racist countries that exists today, making an official policy of apartheid -- racial segregation. The black people, whose land was occupied by the forefathers of the current white rulers, are subjected to brutal policies that have left them no political rights whatsoever. Every black must carry a pass and ID card that is checked at numerous police checkpoints. Black workers cannot form unions and are subject to arrest for trying to organize, while they are forced to work at practically slave conditions. Hundreds of black people have been killed by the racist regime in its efforts to see that the whites stay in power, and blacks have no say in the government.

It is against this backdrop that one of the U.S. government's most dispicable plans was uncovered. Called "Operation Tar Baby," this secret plan lays the basic guideline for U.S. policy in Africa and clearly reveals the intentions the U.S. has towards Africa and the African peoples' struggle for liberation. For years, government officials had been putting forward that the U.S. backed the self-determination of African people and was against the sale of arms to the South African government.

This "public" policy was outlined in a speech before the United Nations, when the U.S. ambassador said, "All of us sitting here today know the melancholy truth about the racial policies of the government of South Africa. Our task now is to consider what further steps we can take to induce that government to remove the evil business of apartheid. . . In the absence of an indication of change, the U.S. will not cooperate in matters which would lend support to South Africa's present racial policies. . . The U.S. has adopted and is enforcing the policy of forbidding the sale to the South African government of arms, and military equipment, whether from government or commercial sources, which could be used by that government to enforce apartheid. . ." This is the public stance Washington is taking.

Behind the scenes, however, Operation Tar Baby reveals the real stance that Washington has had since 1969. Developed by Henry Kissinger and presented to the National Security Council, "Tar Baby" represents an extension of the same type of thinking used by U.S. strategists in the Vietnam war. Specifically, it is based on the assumption that "The whites are here to stay and the only way that constructive

change can come about is through them. There is no hope for Blacks to gain political rights they seek through violence." Now the policy is to "Enforce the arms embargo against South Africa but with LIBERAL treatment of equipment which could serve either MILITARY or civilian purposes." It also allows for U.S. Naval forces to port there, showing strength and support for South Africa's racist government.

On the difficulty of the U.S. maintaining even covert support to racially repressive countries in the face of international opinion, the memorandum coolly calculated, "our interests are clearly worth retaining at their present political costs. These interests include access to air and naval facilities for which alternatives are expensive or less satisfactory, a major tracking station, and significant investments and balance of trade advantages."

Since the implementation of Tar Baby, US investments in South Africa have doubled. The US has broken the United Nations sanction on Rhodesia (the next-door neighbor of South Africa and also apartheid), and is largely responsible for propping up the Rhodesian economy. The US has over \$2.4 billion invested in the region, and needs military security and allies in the area. A regular stream of top-level advisors shuttles back and forth between South Africa and the US at a rate higher than any time in the last 30 years. Military advisors have visited the US and have talked with such diverse people as Gerald Ford, Edward Kennedy and Thomas Bradley (the black mayor of Los Angeles) in an effort to get the US to agree to establish a naval base at the South African port of Simonstown.



50,000 Mine Workers Strike In Durban, S. Africa

The rising tide of African liberation struggles and the great victories that have been won by them are making the designs of the Kissingers and Fords increasingly tenuous. The people of Mozambique, a country which borders both Rhodesia and South Africa, finally won independence from Portugal after hundreds of years of colonialism. The US had backed the Portuguese in their attempts to put down the fight for independence and now has come out on the short end of the stick. In Angola, the Portuguese, after overthrowing their own fascist government, are negotiating with the liberation fighters to free that country.

The revelation of the Tar Baby documents has clearly exposed US imperialism and its attempts to dominate the political and economic situation in Africa. All the business interests that US corporations have built up over the years face expropriation by the peoples of Africa who want to use their own resources for themselves, not for the profit of imperialism. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller has almost \$700 million invested in South Africa, and it is people like him and his fellow imperialists who stand to lose the most from freedom for black Africans. It is the duty of the American people to expose the corrupt plans of the US government and to support the struggles that the African people are waging. As long as the US dominates other peoples lives, there can be no real freedom at home.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

# G.I.s STRUGGLE

## Baby's Death Sparks Protest

Rhonda Pervis, a WAVE stationed at Pearl Harbor, has started a campaign against lack of medical care in the Navy. Medical care has always been a problem for enlisted people in the military and it's especially bad if you're a woman. Last month, Rhonda was placed on a strict restriction for Unauthorized Absence. She was six months pregnant at the time. Regardless of this condition, her Commander, Capt. F. W. Benson, Commanding Officer, Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, ordered her confined to the duty room in the barracks and allowed no visitors. Under Navy regulations, no person can be restricted or confined when they are medically unfit for such restriction.

Rhonda began having complications with her pregnancy and went to a military medical officer. He recommended to Capt. Benson that Rhonda be sent to Tripler Army Hospital for prenatal care immediately. Rhonda renewed her request to be released from restriction to get proper medical attention. Capt. Benson ignored the doctor's recommendation and refused Rhonda's request. Two days later, Rhonda lost her baby.

Since she lost the baby, she has seen a civilian doctor. He stated, "In my opinion, it is detrimental to her mental health to be on restriction. I strongly advise that the restriction be lifted and that she be discharged from the Navy as soon as possible." On Dec. 5th, Rhonda again filed to be taken off restriction and to be discharged -- she has not yet received a reply.

The GI organizing project in Hawaii, LIBERATED BARRACKS, has been working with Rhonda to try to get her released as well as to fight the lack of

decent medical care and the outrageously callous treatment of women in the military. The project has been circulating a petition calling for:

1. We demand the health care that was promised us when we enlisted. Our health is a right that should not be denied. There is no excuse for this kind of negligence.
2. We demand a Congressional investigation. The officer involved in this case should be investigated and punished as directed by the UCMJ.
3. We demand that Rhonda Pervis be immediately taken off restriction and honorably discharged.

For more information and copies of the petition, contact: Rhonda Pervis, c/o LIBERATED BARRACKS, 525 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, Hawaii 96734.

**END THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY!!!**

wire tap evidence uncovered:

## HAIR RESISTER FREED

(Heidelberg, West Germany) -- Louis Stokes, who has been in prison for more than two months for refusing to get a haircut, has been set free because the Army "discovered" that it had tapped a conversation about him by his lawyer. At the court-martial, where Stokes was sentenced to four months in the stockade, the Army testified that there had been no wire taps.

The Army's chief of intelligence in Europe, Brig. Gen. Thomas Bowen, submitted an affidavit to the court-martial which said in part, "I have determined that no such telephone or electronic monitoring has been conducted." In a memorandum that was released to Stokes' lawyers and to the press on December 4th, the Army said, "It has subsequently come to the attention of headquarters USAREUR that on one occasion, a conversation was illegally intercepted." The memo went on to say, "In the interest of fairness and justice this conversation should be set aside."

All this Army doubletalk around the Stokes trial is part of new disclosures that the Army in Europe has been wiretapping groups that they consider "subversive." The Lawyers Military Defense Committee, which provides legal help for GIs, and a GI organizing group in Germany, FORWARD, have been fighting the wiretapping for about a year; now, the Army has been forced to admit at least some of their activity. In addition to the wiretapping, the Army has also been employing informers to spy on these groups. The LMDC, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, has filed a suit against the Army for their illegal activities as well as the Army's attempt to cover these activities up.



## LABOR LEADER BACKS GI STRIKE

William Nuchow, a Teamsters union official, WWII vet and self-described "hardhat," has recently left for West Berlin to testify on behalf of 17 GIs being court-martialed for going on a 24-hour strike against command racism and for the right to wear long hair and beards. Nuchow, the father of Robert Nuchow, one of the 17 GIs of C/94th Arty (Berlin Brigade) charged with mutiny as a result of the strike, said he stands "100%" behind his son.

The senior Nuchow is Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 940 and feels that all soldiers should have the right to wear long hair and beards if they so choose. Regarding a recent phone call with his son, Nuchow commented: "He said, 'Dad, you might not like this because you are sort of a hardhat type guy but I'm still standing up for my principles.' Sure, I'm a hardhat type but I still can't imagine this happening in 1974." The maximum sentence for mutiny according to the UCMJ regulations is death by hanging.

Nuchow, a veteran of the 5th Army that served in Italy during WWII, pointed out the vast support the haircut resisters have in the Berlin Brigade as evidenced by the 1200 GIs that have signed a petition of support for the haircut struggle. "And Robert has a lot of support among the Local 940 membership too," he said. "There are a lot of long haired veterans of Korea and Vietnam in Local 940 who are behind us."

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# WINTER SOLDIER



25

## LAWTON FACES THIRD TRIAL VVAW-WSO BATTLES VA GOONS

See Page 3



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INDOCHINA  
PROGRAM

MILITARY  
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LOCAL ADDRESS

# EDITORIAL

A short time ago, the people of this country had a new Vice-President crammed down our throats--Nelson Rockefeller. His appointment clearly exhibits just who the U.S. government is representing and who that government acts in the interests of--the rich and powerful owners, not the poor and working people.

Shortly after Rockefeller's appointment, he was given his first major job--to head up the President's blue-ribbon panel formed to investigate the CIA. There has been a lot of talk about the CIA recently. First, its covert activities abroad began to seep out and it became clear that the CIA was doing much more than "intelligence gathering," but was actively involved in toppling governments, i.e. the Chile coup. It should come as a surprise to no one that over 2/3rds of CIA funds and manpower are designated for covert operations and their support. Overt intervention in other countries has often proved futile, as seen in the victory of the Indochinese people. Because of this, more "low-profile" methods have to be developed if the U.S. is to continue its intervention and aggression.

Now we learn that the CIA has been spying on people and organizations here in the U.S. which the government views as threats to "internal security." That is no big news either, so why all the excitement? Because along with these "revelations" about the CIA's domestic spying came the news that some of it was directed at the rulers of this country--the rich, the politicians, etc. That is what the uproar is all about. You can bet that if CIA domestic operations had only been directed against the oppressed people of this country and those who are struggling against imperialism, there would be no blue-ribbon commission to investigate their activities; but the CIA has stepped into the arena of the government, of the wealthy, of those who control the country.

We can expect this blue-ribbon commission on the CIA to do a complete whitewash because those on the panel and those whom the panel represents stand for the same interests as does the CIA. The basic reason behind CIA operations--both at home and abroad--is protection of the U.S. economic empire. The CIA serves the needs of imperialism; it serves the needs of people like Rockefeller--the imperialists who run this country. A cover-up of CIA activities is essential because the imperialists can't afford to lose their ability to meddle in the affairs of the world's people. They need the CIA too much.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## ROUDEBUSH REFUSES TO AID VETS

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee suggested to the Veterans Administration that they discontinue to foreclose mortgages for veterans under the Veterans Home Loans Program due to the rising unemployment.

Richard L. Roudsbush, VA administrator, refused to aid the vets who would be affected by losing their homes because of foreclosed mortgages, saying that veteran unemployment wasn't high enough, therefore it was unnecessary to do this. Vets unemployment during the last quarter of 1974 for the age group 20-24 was 15.3%, or over twice the national rate. While unemployment for other veterans isn't quite as high, (7.7%), the rate is rapidly rising. Roudsbush has once again proved that his interests are not with veterans, but rather with the ruling class.

## FRIEDMAN GOES TO TRIAL

Danny Friedman, charged with 3rd degree assault goes to trial on February 10th at the Queens Criminal Court in New York City. This charge stems from an "Honor Vietnam Veterans Night" held at Shea Stadium, where members of VVAW/WSO were attacked by Stadium guards. The vets had placed a banner from the railing, as many other vets groups had done. The guards singled out the VVAW/WSO members and hauled them off into a dressing room, where they tried to beat them up.

During the ensuing police assault, one guard was hospitalized with injuries. The New York City chapter will be leafletting and urging people to attend the trial in support of Friedman who is innocent of this charge.

## NATIONAL STUDENT MEETING HELD

The Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB), a fighting mass student organization with over sixty chapters throughout the country, held its first National Council Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin in January. Delegates from these chapters met for two days summing up their work and discussing positions that the RSB will take in the future.

The meeting was marked by great enthusiasm as the students talked about the revolutionary growth of the student movement on campuses from Boston to California. As a result of these discussions the RSB voted that the organization would concentrate its work in three main areas: fighting cutbacks and police repression and supporting liberation struggles against imperialism, particularly in the Middle East.

For more information on the RSB, contact: RSB National Office, 1647 N. Paulina, Chicago, Illinois 60622

## RUCHELL MAGEE DEMOS SET

Two demonstrations will occur on February 8th in support of Russell Magee, serving an indeterminate sentence in San Quentin Prison. Magee, a Black political prisoner for almost 20 years, has been fighting for his life since trying to escape from the Marin County Courthouse in 1970. The demos will take place in Washington DC, sponsored by the Revolutionary Union, the Revolutionary Student Brigade and VVAW/WSO, and at the gate of San Quentin, sponsored by the February 8th Coalition which includes VVAW/WSO.

## ANGOLA WINS INDEPENDENCE!

Angola, the largest of Portugal's colonies in Africa has won independence. After 14 years of armed struggle the people of Angola have won the fight for liberation, culminating 400 years of resistance to the tyrannical rule of the Portuguese imperialists. Independence will come on November 11, 1975.

The people's struggle for liberation of Angola and their victory marks an end to Portuguese colonial rule in Africa. Two other ex-colonies of Portugal have won independence recently. Mozambique will gain independence on June 25th and Guinea-Bissau will achieve independence on September 10th. The liberation of these countries attests to the growing world-wide movement to end imperialist rule of Third World nations.

## VVAW/WSO HOLDS DEMO IN CHICAGO

The Chicago chapter of VVAW/WSO recently held a demonstration at the VA Hospital, as part of their continuing program of 'War on the VA'. Approximately 30 people picketed at the VA demanding decent benefits for all vets. One speaker talked about the rising crisis of the imperialist system, linking the conditions of vets to that of other oppressed people. From the VA, the demonstrators went to an unemployment office nearby to demand 'Jobs or Income for All'.

# Veterans Adminis' tion running scared **'WAR ON THE VA' GROWS**



Jattled Demonstrators Still Militant

"We're here to protest cutbacks of the VA staff, the proposed taxes on veterans' pensions, an inadequate GI Bill, a lack of jobs, and no benefits for thousands of vets with bad discharges", shouted a Vietnam veteran in front of Wood VA hospital on December 18th, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

All of a sudden, about 15 hospital guards rushed out of the hospital and tried to drag the speaker from his stand. The crowd stood their ground between these Government Service Administration (GSA) police and the speaker. When the cops started shoving, the veterans and others shoved back. Soon many of the GSA guards were lying on their backs with vets and others standing over them. The police had to resort to mace to save themselves and protect their retreat.

**"IF WE'RE GOING TO LICK 'EM WE GOT TO BE TIGHT, AND WE'VE GOT A GOOD START. WE SHOWED THEM THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS"** - Black World War II Vet.

The demonstrators then moved the picket line to another main door where lots of out-patients were coming and going. For protection, the people formed a moving picket line around their speaker: patients and members of VVAW/WSO. They spoke bitterly about the rotten conditions inside the VA hospital.

One speaker ran down how the VA, the largest health system in the country, has the worst patient to staff ratio. He said the \$13 billion a year government agency is not replacing discharged workers at Wood. In fact, they are laying off at least 13 part-time employees. For example the stall cutbacks have already cut the number of therapists in a hydrotherapy ward from 2 full-time and 3 assistants to just one therapist. He must regularly administer whirlpool baths to 43 patients. This situation cuts down on the frequency of the baths and increases the dangers of accidents in the wa-

Another speaker told how a lack of qualified doctors and a disrespect for the veterans lead to the patients being used as guinea pigs for medical students. One patient who had back problems had his stomach cut open! A third speaker ran down how federal cutbacks were affecting disabled vets. A vet who was considered 10% disabled, is now not considered disabled at all. A vet who is 100% disabled is now 80%. The vets will be getting less money, but it doesn't stop there. The government now wants to tax the money they've already cut down. This speaker also told how the hospital needs Spanish-speaking doctors.

Still another vet told how the head of the methadone program threatened to cut his patients off methadone if they joined the demonstration. The methadone patients, many of whom became addicted as a result of Vietnam, are being strung out on a "Long Acting Methadone Program." Many object that they are trapped in an addiction as bad as heroin and are demanding a drug-free rehabilitation program.

Inside the hospital militant patients who wanted to join the picket line and rally were threatened by guards. Some were intentionally scheduled for therapy at the same time as the protest was going on outside. In spite of this some patients joined the marchers in the bitter cold still in hospital gowns to address their supporters.

**"THE GSA GUARDS ARE STILL COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR INJURIES. AND IF THEY STAND IN OUR WAY AGAIN THEY WILL HAVE MORE TO TALK ABOUT"** - Korean War Vet.

At the end of the protest the people raised some spirited chants for all the patients that boomed off the walls of the big building: "The VA clinics are butcher shops, we need more doctors, but you hire more cops!" and "Decent health care is our right: we're sick and tired and ready to fight!"

As the demonstrators were leaving, the police attacked again; twenty GSA guards backed up with local police. Knowing that the "War on the VA" is part of a national vets movement, they have to try to stop it before it grows still larger. There were twenty-five minutes of hand-to-hand combat as the demonstrators and police clashed. Several police landed head first into their own squad cars and several bounced off the concrete. Eleven of the demonstrators were arrested as a result of the police attack -- none were injured. As of this time charges have not been filed, while the US federal attorney awaits orders from Washington.

While Gerald Ford talks about healing the nation's wounds, the government could not embarrass itself by charging the eleven. These people had fought for big business, been wounded for doing that, only to come home to face unemployment and butcher shop hospital conditions from the same big business. All that the VA officials could do was to try and stop the vets from talking the truth by sending out their goon squads to try and shut them up.

**"IT'S THE FIRST TIME VETS FROM WORLD WAR II AND VIETNAM COULD AGREE ON SOMETHING BESIDES WAR STORIES! THIS FIGHT IS ALL OURS"** - Vietnam Veteran.

VVAW/WSO members went back to the hospital that night to find patients putting up the demonstration poster all over the hospital. Some were xeroxing more copies. More of them now see the struggle as their fight. The action was a great success. Patients and others vowed, "next time there'll be more of us and we'll be ready!"

These actions at the Woods Hospital in Milwaukee are part of an overall national campaign that VVAW/WSO is working on to fight for decent benefits for all veterans. Contact your local chapter to find out what we are doing in your area.

## Join VVAW/WSO

For more information or the address of the nearest chapter, call or write to us at:  
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# VIETNAM LIBERATION FIGHTERS CAPTURE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

News reports from South Vietnam describe a country in turmoil. Facts, such as the liberation of Phuoc Binh (a province capital), mortar rounds landing in Saigon, US planes directing fire for Thieu's troops, the disabling of the Saigon power station, are mixed with charges about North Vietnam breaking the Paris agreements, and the US government's requests for more money for the Saigon dictatorship. Sifting through all the propaganda which the US peddles to its news media, however, one fact stands out clearly: the liberation forces are winning and Thieu with his US government backers are daily losing ground.

Phuoc Binh, also known as Song Be, is the capital of Phuoc Long province, a large jungle-covered area located from about 40-75 miles north of Saigon. Even five years ago, the city of Song Be was the only Saigon-controlled outpost in the province, a control enforced by a US Army brigade. The province chief, hated by his people, was one of petty dictators found throughout South Vietnam, who had created his own militia. But even with this armed hand, he could not drive more than a couple of miles outside Song Be in safety. There was, in the beginning of January 1975, fierce fighting as the liberation forces took the town. News reports in US papers cried out about the "fate of the 22,000 civilians" in Phuoc Binh--and, in the same paragraph, talked about the intense bombing of the city by Thieu's forces. Other reactions by Thieu included an immediate request for more US \$s, and the terror-bombing of the liberated forces headquarters city of Loc Ninh.

Strategically, Phuoc Binh is not a vital town--in fact, while the focus was on Phuoc Binh, the National Liberation Front (NLF) was making more important gains in the Mekong Delta area of South Vietnam. But the liberation of Phuoc Binh did give Thieu and the US government the opportunity to accuse the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) and North Vietnam of a major violation of the Paris agreements, and to say that the US was now free to break the agreements in response, totally ignoring the fact that Phuoc Binh has been a tiny dictatorship in the midst of a liberated province for years.

The fact is that the US has systematically violated the agreements ever since they were signed. US surveillance flights over North Vietnam, specifically prohibited in June of 1973 have again begun. And the fall of Phuoc Binh gave the Pentagon and the Ford administra-



Anti-Thieu Demonstration in Saigon

tion the chance to start beating the war drums for more money for Thieu. It is not lack of money and ammunition which is causing Thieu to lose in South Vietnam--it is the struggle of the Vietnamese people to be free from the control of Thieu and the US imperialism which Thieu represents. In the words of Pres-

ident Nguyen Huu Tho, leader of the NLF "Practically all the areas illegally occupied by Thieu have been recovered, resulting in the liberation of hundreds of thousands and the conditions have been created for other hundreds of thousands of people to once again have the right to decide their own future."

## Cambodia FIGHTING INCREASES

The strategic noose is tightening on the Lon Nol capital of Phnom Penh as the Cambodian liberation forces close in on the last stronghold of US imperialism in Cambodia. As the liberation forces move closer, Lon Nol's support withers away even further: in the first 11 days of January (following the New Year's Day offensive) over 22,000 people have rallied to the liberated area, and many of Lon Nol's troops are refusing to fight any longer.

One of the keys to Phnom Penh is its supply route: for years, the US has shipped ammunition and other supplies up the Mekong River to the capital. But the People's National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia (PNLAFC) are making that route impassable. By liberating the small towns and hamlets along the river, the PNLAFC is now in a position to stop any supplies from reaching Phnom Penh by that route.

Since the US people forced aid cutbacks to Cambodia, and US cessation of its open military support of Lon Nol, the US government has had to use other methods to keep its dictator in power. The most recent maneuver is Bird Air, a "civilian" airline operating from Thailand; funded by the US, operating US Air Force planes (with the insignia painted out), and using Air Force pilots (who have "returned" to Thailand as "civilians")

Bird Air has been airlifting military supplies with its 10 C-130 flights per day--its greatest capacity. That amounts to 200 tons per day--mostly ammunition. But ammunition is being used at a rate of 600 tons per day, to say nothing of the 600 tons of rice needed each day in the capital city. And plans are already drawn up to increase the airlift capability rather than see Lon Nol's government collapse. All of this activity goes on beyond the scope of the Congressional limitations on military aid to Lon Nol, once again underlining the bankruptcy of relying on the US Congress.

While Lon Nol and his government use the vital airplanes coming into Phnom Penh for ammunition to keep themselves in power, the people of Phnom Penh come closer to starvation. Meanwhile, in the liberated areas, the people have launched an offensive in agricultural production. Despite a season of drought followed by floods, there were two rice-harvests in the past year throughout the liberated zones--and three in some places. Operating under the slogan "Getting water to grow rice, and getting rice to overcome the US imperialists," the people have built dikes and canals to grow the food needed to support the PNLAFC. On all fronts, the people's struggle continues, and reign of Lon Nol draws to an end.

## Implement the Agreements



# VVAW-WSO National Meeting MEETING SETS NEW PROGRAM



Buffalo Vets Day Demo

From December 27-31, 1974, VVAW/WSO held its fourteenth National Steering Committee Meeting (NSCM) in St. Louis, Missouri. Delegates from nearly every region of the country met to discuss and determine national policies and programs for the organization. The National Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body of VVAW/WSO, which meets every six months. It is composed of 8 delegates from each region who are elected by the members of that region to represent them.

The beginning of the meeting was spent with analyzing the strengths, weaknesses and direction of the organization. Each region spoke to the concrete conditions in their areas, summing up work and the successes of building the struggle in their communities. This was followed by workshops which met to discuss specific areas of work and political questions facing the organization. The reports from these workshops served as the basis for the whole body to then discuss and vote on what the national organization must do in the coming period.

This national meeting was of great importance -- both to VVAW/WSO and the anti-imperialist movement. The organization decided that our responsibility to the growing struggle against imperialism is for us to build a fighting veteran and GI movement -- a movement which will be integrally involved in insuring that U.S. imperialism is wiped from the face of the earth. We also discussed such major questions as

the continued war in Indochina, the rising danger of war in the Middle East, the struggle for universal and unconditional amnesty, the current economic crisis, conditions facing GIs and veterans, and the development of a national program of work for the organization.

## National Program

The best way VVAW/WSO can fight the oppression coming down on veterans and organize these people into the struggle against imperialism is for us to wage a national campaign around the conditions that veterans face -- a campaign to attack the entire Veterans Administration system. The system we live under, U.S. imperialism, is in deep crisis. After decades of trying to seize the resources and cheap labor of Third World nations, imperialism is being thrown out of these countries, defeated by liberation struggles around the world and the resistance of the American people here at home. Since one of the major sources of profits for big business is being cut off, as a result of the victories of the many liberation struggles, the imperialists are having to turn more and more to the poor and working people here in the U.S. to dump their crisis on. That is what the current economic situation is all about -- inflation, recession and unemployment for the masses of people and profits for the scum at the top.

Veterans are also facing the rising attacks on people's living standards. Unemployment is much higher for Vietnam-era vets than the national average, particularly for minority veterans. The GI Bill is 300% lower than it was for WWII vets. The quality of medical care at VA hospitals is deteriorating, and staff is being cutback. Anyone who has been to the VA for help knows that the VA tries to obstruct or flatly deny these benefits.

Veterans were tricked and forced into fighting a war of aggression which was not in their interests, and they have returned to a society which is unwilling and unable to meet their day-to-day needs. Why? Because the VA is part of the whole system, the imper-

alist system, and that system is run in the interests of the small class who control everything. The VA is not answerable to the masses of veterans, does not have to account for its actions to vets and generally is used to beat vets down, to "pacify" them and try to keep them from fighting back against the system.

But vets are fighting back and they are fighting mad! Because of this, VVAW/WSO has declared war on the entire VA system -- the hospitals, the administrative offices, the drug programs, the job training programs, the GI Bill, the vet rep on campuses, the community vets programs, the federally funded rip-off programs and the poverty pimps who leech off the people's real problems and try to divert the struggle. The only way that vets, and all people, will get what is rightfully theirs is if they fight for it. Through our campaign against the VA, VVAW/WSO hopes to lead this struggle of veterans and build that fighting movement of vets which will be able to deliver a powerful blow in the struggle for freedom in this country.

One of the prime targets of our program is the VA hospital system. This system, the largest of all hospital systems in the country is also one of the worst run. The doctor/patient ratio is lower than most county general hospitals. The red tape, racial discrimination, regimentation and harassment "greet" vets as they walk through VA doors and shows the inability of VA hospitals to really serve the needs of the millions of veterans who are forced to seek help from the VA. We are organizing in these hospitals, going to patients and helping them to fight back. We are working with the hospital employees, the majority of whom really care about the problems of veterans, and supporting their struggle against the staff cutbacks which are currently plaguing the VA system and to help in the fight to see that needed programs in the VA are implemented.

Along with our campaign being waged against the VA, VVAW/WSO also adopted a national program of work for building the anti-imperialist GI movement. For years, GIs have been fighting back against the repression, racism and role of the military; VVAW/WSO will more consciously take up these struggles in a systematic way and increase our organizing among active-duty people. We believe that the military does not serve the interests of GIs, nor the majority of American people; instead, it is used to protect the interests of U.S. imperialism -- both at home and abroad. Our program for GI work is a tool to help GIs organize against the conditions they face in the military and line that struggle up

(Continued on next page)



Vets Day in Milwaukee

# VETS DEMAND ACTION



"Bonus" Vets Ready to March

In June and July, 1932, the situation in Washington, DC, was critical. Between 20,000 and 25,000 vets and their families were camped in and around the city, and their anger was growing. Much of this anger was being directed toward the government-sponsored leadership of the B. E. F. (the Bonus Expeditionary Force which was the largest organization of vets in the Bonus Army)--ex-general Glassford, DC police chief; and his henchman, W. W. Waters, B. E. F. Commander-in-chief. The masses of vets wanted action; all they were getting was talk, excuses, and deception--lots of militant speeches, but no action.

On July 10, the main body of the California contingent straggled into Washington. Their "leader," (more accurately, mis-leader), Royal Robertson, had managed to lose 2/3s of the contingent in the month it had taken to cross the country, and ripped off large chunks of the money donated by sympathizers along their route. Robertson did understand, however, what the vets were looking for. His first step was to apply for a parade permit and, when the vets arrived at the Capitol, they decided to stay: in Robertson's words, "We're taking our blankets with us, and if Congress adjourns without paying the Bonus we'll follow its members home and aid in defeating them for re-election." Not only the California vets, but vets from the B. E. F. flocked to the Capitol building.

There followed a series of hassles, familiar to more recent demonstrators in Washington: the vets were told they couldn't stay on the Capitol grounds, then that they could stay but couldn't sleep. The lawns were sprinkled to discourage sleeping on the grass. The vets reacted with what came to be known as the "Death March": a constant stream of vets walking in and out of the Capitol grounds. For five days and nights they marched; one vet collapsed twice in one day and still got up to rejoin the slow

march. Inside the Capitol, special bands of Capitol police nervously fingered tear-gas bombs which had been stockpiled when the vets first arrived in DC. Now they were brought out into the open for the first time. The tension increased as Congress rushed toward adjournment (the House had passed the Bonus Bill, the Senate had voted against it; the vets were demanding that the Bill be reconsidered before adjournment.)

Despite the precautions, however, Glassford and the Hoover-administration were not much worried by Robertson and his calls for action; they saw his motives more clearly than his followers did. First, Robertson had already put forth the idea of following Congressmen home to their districts, which would break up the vets and get them out of DC. This had been the government's plan all along. Second, Robertson was proposing that the Bonus be paid to "needy vets, certified by local officials, welfare or veterans' bureaus"--a rank-splitting device which would break the unity of the vets. The mass of veterans had come to DC spontaneously, demanding the Bonus in order to survive. Because there was no real organization, the government was able to plant its own leaders, and the vets were willing to follow these leaders until they proved utterly bankrupt. Finally, the vets aimed their actions at Congress--few of the vets in DC understood that the system, not Congress, was at the root of the crisis. They had come to Washington for action to meet their immediate needs, not to push for longer-range solutions.

So long as they had control of the leadership, whether Robertson or Waters, the government felt secure. Rank and file leadership posed the greatest danger. The Workers-Ex-Serviceman's League, though small, was such a group. While the "Death March" continued, the WESL organized demonstrations in support of the march. Their call was for unity: in the words of one WESL leader,

"Only the united mass action of all the veterans and their supporters will force Congress to pay the Bonus." They attacked racism: one of their slogans was "Veterans, Negro and white, Unite." They insisted on rank-and-file leadership. They also understood the need for organization, calling for a convention which would establish a real structure so that the vets could have unified actions.

Because the WESL (which had been the group to call for the march in the first place) had members of the then Communist Party among its leadership, "red baiting" was constant. The furor was so great that some vets were prepared to throw bricks at a WESL march, until reminded that these were the same people who had served in the same trenches in WWI. Police attacked WESL rallies; Water's MPs harassed WESL speakers; it wasn't until the vets were finally forced out of DC at bayonet point, that numbers of vets saw the WESL had the right approach.

With the "Death March" still going on, with WESL demonstrations near the Capitol, the time came for Congress to adjourn. Fearful of what could happen, Glassford and Waters concocted one of their great moves--Waters was arrested. Masses of vets had their attention diverted from what Congress was doing to the arrest of their "leader," even though the "leader" has been thoroughly discredited. By the time the scheme was played out and Waters was released, the Congressmen were out of the capital and on their way home. But adjournment did not have the whole effect the government wanted--vets did not follow congressmen home. They stayed to demand that Hoover call Congress back into session.

Public support for the vets was building. Crowds in DC came to support the vets. A brigade of vets wives formed and issued a call to veteran's wives around the country to go to DC to support their husbands; those wives already in DC refused police offers of "more comfortable" quarters than the sordid camps in which their husbands lived. More support came from GIs. A company of Marines, called out to protect the Capitol, had to be sent back--35 of them refused to move from their barracks, while others would not pick up their rifles when ordered to do so.

The government had about run out of tricks--they had co-opted leadership, they had tempted and bribed vets to go home, they had harassed and attacked demonstrations, but still the vets remained. There was only one thing left--use brute force, the ultimate weapon of a desperate state.

Next issue: "Bloody Thursday" and after.

# FREE GARY LAWTON AND

an atmosphere of racial repression, the third trial of Gary Lawton (a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Winter Soldier Organization) began on January 8th in Riverside, California. The first two trials of Lawton ended in hunguries, though a majority of jurors felt Gary was innocent. Though Lawton is being tried for the murder of two white Riverside policemen, his real crime is being Black and organizing the minority community in Riverside to fight back against the attacks brought on this community by the Riverside rulers. The struggle to free Gary Lawton is of major importance to all people in this country, and for this reason it is necessary to understand some of the history of this struggle and its relationship to other struggles currently being waged in the U.S.

The major event which set this racist attack on Gary Lawton in motion was the April, 1971 killing of two Riverside policemen, Officers Christiansen and Teel, responded to a burglary call on the edge of the Riverside's Black community and were ambushed by unknown assailants. Eyewitness reports stated that four men had been seen fleeing from the scene of the shooting — 3 white teenagers and one short teenage Black with an Afro haircut. (It should be noted that Gary Lawton is 34, 6'3", of heavy build and partially bald). A reign of terror was unleashed on the community of Riverside and in the confusion, no clues as to the identity of the assailants were found. However, someone had to pay for the killing of these cops and with no clues, the police singled out Gary Lawton. That was almost four years ago and after nearly two years in jail, two trials, and over \$100,000 in legal fees, the struggle to free Gary Lawton is still going on.

Throughout his life, Gary Lawton has been a Black man. He has been active in organizing among Third World, poor and oppressed people in Riverside since 1968. He headed up the Black Congress, an organization which fought for the rights of all oppressed people within the community. Lawton struggled for decent housing, against discriminatory employment practices, against segregation, and organized people to fight back against police brutality within the community. He was deeply involved in fighting for decent living standards for the people of Riverside. Because of this, it is not difficult to understand why Lawton has been made the target of the political attack waged by those who rule Riverside.

Gary was arrested shortly after the killing of Christiansen and Teel, even though he had taken a lie detector test which proved no deception on his part. In order to bolster their case, Riverside police also arrested two other Black brothers to stand trial along with Gary — Nehemiah Jackson and Alvin Gardner. All three were charged with murder.

Lawton, Jackson and Gardner were held in the Riverside County Jail for nearly a year before their trials. During this time, they were subjected to a series of interrogations and threats by the police. Lawton was also subjected to a series of interrogations and threats by the police.

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Demonstrators demanding freedom for Ray Mendoza



Gary Lawton



Chukia Lawton, Gary's wife



# ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

...and trial...  
...in Oct. 1974...  
...was a lack of...  
...annual harassment...  
...were trumped-up charges...  
...in this struggle, but...  
...the government is trying...  
...after a year of work...  
...create all kinds of...  
...becomes more...  
...has been long suppressed...  
...to light. It was disclosed...  
...it's not all three Black men...  
...Wayman Vaughan...  
...stated at the time...  
...James Tennell (Chief...  
...of the Lawton case)...  
...the wife of one of the...  
...Tennell who arranged...  
...Tennell who had person...  
...addict \$30 a day, the...  
...against Lawton in the...  
...pointing to Tennell was...  
...attempts to further investi...  
...the government has recei...  
...real killers...  
...not isolated from the...  
...community. Between 1960...  
...or have been harassed...  
...the LDP since the begin...  
...March 1975 members...  
...one of the...  
...another...  
...was on trial in support...  
...While at the...  
...and wife...  
...and wife...  
...by police when they...  
...Palmer...  
...Zurcho Gardner was also...  
...was...  
...and resisting arrest...  
...interfering with a police...  
...They under...  
...which ended...  
...arrest...  
...too many...  
...Gardner was also charged...  
...this courthouse...  
...trial...  
...Lawton is also a political

...from which...  
...from...  
...released...  
...in...  
...instance of Operation Zebra...  
...stated...  
...police...  
...shooting...  
...Black...  
...case of...  
...Black...  
...Another...  
...Glover...  
...walking...  
...man pulled...  
...being...  
...Gardner was...  
...Thomas Shea...  
...Chicago...  
...others...  
...Black...  
...murdered by...  
...group of...  
...group of...  
...small...  
...was killed...  
...22-year-old...  
...sentences...  
...shooting...  
...police...  
...controlling...  
...struggle to free...  
...learned...  
...it takes more...  
...learned...  
...stand...  
...major...  
...freedom of Gary Lawton...  
...will...  
...come...  
...support...  
...the masses of people in...  
...the community...  
...organizing themselves to fight...  
...repression in their own communities...  
...The struggle...  
...would never have come as far as it...  
...has...  
...support...  
...third trial now going on, that sup...  
...port...  
...As Gary Lawton has...  
...said...  
...FREE...  
...ONE IS NOT ENOUGH-FREE...  
...ALL SAYON!

...country...  
...the in...  
...Chicago...  
...people in...  
...there is the...  
...Black...  
...who was...  
...this affe...  
...these attacks...  
...fighting for better living and working...  
...conditions...  
...repression is the only way Imperial...  
...ism can respond to these struggles...  
...Attacks...  
...repressive...  
...against Gary Lawton will continue...  
...to be used by the state in the hopes of intimidating...  
...people...  
...a fear of fighting...  
...Gary Lawton is a man who has been a much...  
...effective community organizer and who continues...  
...to speak out for the rights of all oppressed people...  
...of this reason alone, the government finds it nec...  
...essary to silence him, to stop his work, and to try to...  
...show other people that they should just sit back and...  
...allow the government to retain its control. But the...  
...people of this country will not put up with these lies...  
...with these frame-up trials. And with the incredible...  
...police...  
...within our communities...  
...must continue to organize to fight back...  
...we...  
...should be controlling our own lives!...  
...struggle to free...  
...learned...  
...it takes more...  
...learned...  
...stand...  
...major...  
...freedom of Gary Lawton...  
...will...  
...come...  
...support...  
...the masses of people in...  
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...said...  
...FREE...  
...ONE IS NOT ENOUGH-FREE...  
...ALL SAYON!



Rudy Bronaugh



Zurcho Gardner and Gary Lawton



Don't let it go protest Operation Zebra

# WINTER SOLDIER



The second trial in New York, which was held in the same court, the Southern District of New York, was just a few examples of the incredible developments surrounding the repression of the Black community. Just as the repression coming down on minority people in the United States is increasing, so is the repression coming down on minority people in the rest of the world. In the United States, the repression is coming down on minority people in general, and on poor and working people in general. Everywhere across the country, Imperialism does not only function in countries abroad; it also exists in our own country. In all of the exploitative brutality here in our own country, the economy continues to crumble, and the corporations continue to find ways to keep their profits from dropping. If their profits are dropping, they will attempt to throw their trials onto the backs of the working people here in the U.S. But the masses of people are resisting these attacks, fighting for better living and working conditions, and repression is the only way Imperialism can respond to these struggles.

[illegible][illegible]

...the persecution and deportation also called  
...the government's attempts to divide  
...working people. Police are used to beat up, harass  
...and deport Latinos. They are on the streets  
...in the fields or in the shops. They are the de-  
...long trials of Michael Masera, California, and the  
...Control in New York. There is incredible oppression  
...in the communities of Atlanta, Dallas, and Detroit.  
...The next step is to spread this

...of  
...to stop a part of Gary's work. Other  
...are indiscriminate attacks on immigrants  
...and still others have stemmed from people being  
...the wrong place at the wrong time. Immigrants  
...they are not isolated people.

...the county, we are fighting for the freedom of Gary  
...and who are organizing themselves to fight  
...against their own communities. The struggle  
...Gary Lawton would never have come as far as it  
...has if it had not been for the support of a mass  
...struggle. With the third trial now going on, that sup-  
...port is needed more than ever. As Gary Lawton has  
...said, FREEDOM FOR ONE IS NOT ENOUGH-FREE  
...US ALL, SAY ON!

For more information and to send the desperately  
needed financial contributions, contact: RPPDC,  
20000 Santa Anita Blvd., Chula Vista, California 92024.



Resty Bronaugh Gardner & Newton Demonstration protesting Operation 744-2

# G.I.s STRUGGLE

## BLACK G.I.s ATTACK RACISM

On the morning of January 16th, 100 black GIs, men and women, took control of a dining hall at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota to protest racist treatment by the Air Force.

The previous evening was marked by a large fight in which several airmen were injured, following a banquet and dance honoring the memory of Dr Martin Luther King. Military authorities tried to cover up the incident by stating that it was in no way related to the Dining hall takeover the next morning.

Initially the dining hall was seized by 100 GIs, 27 of whom remained the entire 6 hours of occupation. The black men and women agreed to give control back to the base commander, Col Robert Spencer, with the agreement that no reprisals would be made against the militants. All the GIs involved then returned to duty with the exception of 5 representatives who entered into discussions with Col Spencer. They will be discussing the demands expressed during the takeover, the chief of which was "better race relations on base and in the community."

With national attention focusing on Minot AFB, located just south of the US-Canadian border, the Pentagon was forced to admit that things weren't going smoothly there and serious racial problems do in fact exist at Minot. It was, in reality, the unified action of men and women rising up together that brought attention to the conditions.

The military officials have tried to make the takeover appear as an isolated incident that mysteriously occurred, rather than the direct result of the racist practices and conditions that the military continually perpetuates and encourages.

The situation was best summed up by a spokesman for the GIs involved in the takeover, who stated: "We were there because of major problems that exist on base and in the community, and I don't mean the weather."

## NEW RULING IN SMITH CASE G.I.s RIGHT TO RESIST

A GI can use "reasonable force" to resist an illegal arrest by MPs. That is what the Court of Military Review recently decided in the case of Billy Dean Smith. He is the GI who was arrested and brought to trial for supposedly "fragging" (throwing a fragmentation grenade at) an officer in Vietnam.

When the MPs tried to arrest him on charges which he knew were phoney, Billy Dean resisted this false arrest with force, and wound up being charged with assaulting an MP as well as the "fragging" charge.

At his trial in Fort Ord, California, which gained worldwide attention, Billy Dean, with the support of many thousands of GIs and civilians, won acquittal of all charges except the "assaulting" of the MP. For that he got a reduction in grade to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge. On the appeal, the Army Court of Military Review overturned the assault conviction, reasoning that since he knew he was innocent of the charges for which he was arrested, Billy Dean had a right to resist arrest. The court said that the acquittal "served to establish the error and apprehension to have been unlawful. Thus he was entitled to resist such an arrest with reasonable force."

Of course this is a great victory for Billy Dean Smith and the many people who supported him. But, it is also a step forward for all GIs who are constantly being harassed and busted by mil-



Billy Dean Smith

itary police of the various services on phoney charges. Usually, what happens is that they beat the hell out of a GI and then charge HIM with assault. Until now that has almost always resulted in heavy penalties for the GI.

The new decision in Billy Dean Smith's case seems to give GIs the right to resist these phoney busts with force. We are not advocating you use force to resist every arrest. But, we are saying that you do not have to take abuse from Military Police and that if they are wrongfully messing with you, you can use reasonable force to resist.



### THE THINKING GI

General, your tank is a mighty vehicle.  
It smashes down forests.  
And it crushes a hundred men.  
But it has one defect:  
It needs a driver.

General, your bomber is powerful--  
It flies faster than a storm.  
And it carries more than an elephant.  
But it has one defect:  
It needs a mechanic.

General, a man is very useful.  
He can fly and he can kill.  
But it has one defect:  
He can think.

Bertolt Brecht



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# McALESTER

Of all the atrocities at the Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester, none was worse than "The Rock," the prison's isolation unit. Described by one prisoner as a "medieval chamber of horrors," the Rock was burned to the ground on Oct. 19th. The underground prison newspaper noted, "That the captives performed this long-needed step in penal reform without injury or loss of life is cause for rejoicing. The action was a complete and total victory for the people..." Recently, ten McAlester prisoners have been charged with second-degree arson, and have a preliminary hearing on Jan. 24th.

The burning of the Rock is just one incident in a series of acts of resistance in response to the repression and racism of the State. In July, 1973, a \$20 million fire destroyed a large part of the prison during a summer of prison uprisings; but instead of reacting to the inhuman conditions which caused the rebellion, the state officials increased repression. Guards took sadistic delight in gassing inmates locked in their cells, particularly those kept in isolation. In May of 1974, Bobby Forsythe was murdered in one vicious gas attack; he died locked in his 5'x8' cell,

begging for help, as guards refused to open. The official verdict on his death was that it was from "natural causes," although it was clearly the result of gas. As a result of the outraged protests of prisoners who gained the support of people around the country, a federal grand jury is now investigating that blatant murder.

Prisoner law suits brought another change. District Judge Luther Bohannon ordered a whole laundry-list of changes including such basic rights as receiving and sending mail, access to attorneys and legal materials, and basic medical care (a "doctor" hired after this ruling was later arrested as a con artist with no medical training--the prison administrators who had checked his credentials said that it was difficult to find a doctor for the prison system). For several months, the worst of the violations of basic human rights stopped--aided by a new warden. Then he fell victim to the political infighting between the then Governor David Hall (since indicted for bribery) and the board of corrections, and the terrorism returned under a series of ex-military officers playing warden.

In October, the Rock burned. During the pre-trial hearing of the 10 prisoners charged with arson, political prisoner Bessie Bell, after being handcuffed, shackled and gagged, was pistol whipped in court on orders of the judge and stood in front of the bench with blood dripping down his face as the judge entered a plea in his behalf. On Jan. 5th, five wings of the trusty facility (housing for so-called "honor" prisoners) at McAlester were destroyed by fire.

Prison officials, representing the state, continue to attack prisoners; racism is blatant -- of the McAlester 10, seven are Black, two are Indians, and one is white. But prisoners see racism for what it is--an attempt to divide the people. A call put out by a coalition of prison groups states: "The Dept. of Corrections wants Blacks & Whites & Browns to be at each other's throats because that makes us easy to control... We are all ONE united against a common oppressor. JUSTICE is being on the dry end of a bloody knife, but let's be certain that the knife of justice is left in brown uniforms and not brown skin. Racism sucks! We are all brothers. UNITED we are indestructible!"

With the increasing repression comes increasing resistance: brothers at McAlester have learned the lessons of the past. As one prisoner has written, "The people who run McAlester have tried to institute a militaristic regime using brutality, force and violence in an effort to conquer the gooks of McAlester, but we gooks are not having any of it... We realize that the institution of prisons is a tool of class and ethnic oppression... Lash (the head of corrections) and his retired colonels are in the process of learning the same lesson that Amerikkka learned in the rice paddies of Vietnam, namely that short of murdering us all there is no way to enslave people... whose lives are committed to cooperation and UNITY!"

## WHAT IS VVAW-WSO?

Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) is a mass, anti-imperialist organization which focuses its work on the struggles of veterans and GIs. We began as a group of Vietnam veterans actively protesting the war in Indochina. As our protest grew, however, we came to realize that the real problem was not just the war but the system of imperialism. Based on our experiences in Vietnam and our experiences after we returned to the United States, we now see what imperialism is: the system which exploits the poor and working people around the world and here at home in the interests of the corporate profit-makers. Imperialism needs wars like Vietnam in order to survive.

Today, we are fighting against imperialism on two fronts. As we have in the past, we actively support the liberation struggles of the Indochinese people and demand an end to US involvement in Indochina. Since we see that imperialism also exploits people all around the world, we support the many other liberation struggles as people fight for freedom and independence.

But we see that the same system of imperialism which tries to suppress other people is hard at work here in the United States. As a result, we have taken up people's struggles at home. We have declared war on the whole Veterans Administration network which does not and cannot meet the real needs of veterans. We struggle against the racism and repression in the US military. Because of the current economic crisis, we are fighting for jobs or income for all, not just for veterans who are hard hit by unemployment, but for all people who cannot get work under the system of imperialism. We work with political prisoners around the country in support of their struggles. And we are in the forefront of the fight for universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters. All of these struggles are part of the overall struggle against imperialism; they make up our national program for action.

This program is carried out by our members who work in chapters throughout the US and overseas in Japan and England. Chapters also work on local programs and campaigns. Our members are veterans and non-veterans, GIs and civilians who struggle to end imperialism, understand the importance of building a fighting veterans and GI movement, and are making that movement grow. We are doing our part to fight a system which oppresses us all; if you want to join in that fight, or to get more information about our national or local programs, contact the local VVAW/WSO chapter, the regional office, or the VVAW/WSO National Office, 827 W. Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (phone: 312-935-2129).

## WINTER SOLDIER

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We are in a recession. President Ford, in his State of the Union speech before Congress, finally came out and admitted it long after we already knew what was happening. After raising the hue and cry that the number one enemy was inflation, Ford pulled a complete reversal and is now saying that recession is number one.

The economists are coming up with all kinds of theories on what has gone wrong and how to fix it. With all the gobbleygook these "experts" are saying, it's almost impossible to understand what they're talking about. However, what comes across clear as a bell is their conclusion: things are bad; they are going to get worse; and the American people should be willing to sacrifice to keep the system afloat with inflation, unemployment and speedup!

We live under the system of imperialism and certain basic facts about that system clearly reveal what the real problem is. Who creates the wealth? Workers. Workers create everything in society. It is the labor of working people that makes the cars, the machines, the clothes, the schools. Workers make crude oil into gasoline and construct the skyscrapers; workers also build the shabby buildings that they must live in. There is hardly a thing people need and use that is not made by workers.

On the other hand, what do the imperialists do? Virtually nothing, yet they own just about everything. All the things produced by workers are owned by that small strata at the top; the Rockefellers, Mellons, DuPonts, Gettys -- the people who own all large industry. Anyone who works knows that they produce in one day thousands of dollars worth of products, yet their wages do not equal the value of what they have produced. What the owners get is the difference between what they pay the workers (and what they pay for overhead) and what they sell the product for, and that difference is their profit -- the extra sweat wrung from the workers. They didn't do anything to get it, so it is virtually stolen.

The owners know that the less they have to pay workers, the more profit they will make. The harder and faster they can make people work, the more profit they get. So wages are kept down and "productivity" is kept up with speedups and new machines. But there is a catch to keeping wages down -- it is working people who have to buy what is produced. And if wages are pushed too far down (either directly or by inflation) then it is impossible to buy those products. Therein lies one of the key reasons for the current (and just about every) crisis of imperialism -- overproduction. Goods pile up because people cannot afford to buy them. So, the imperialists start laying off workers to cut back on production. That means that even less can be purchased and that means more cutbacks and more layoffs.

# RECESSION: A SYSTEM IN CRISIS



And Still Growing -- Baltimore Unemployment Line

It does not mean that there are so many products that they can't all be used. It means that there are more than people can afford to buy, even though everyone sure could use what's been produced.

Every ten years or so this ripoff system goes through a crisis. During those times, millions of people have been thrown out of work and many left to starve. The last major crisis, the Great Depression, didn't end until the start of WWII. With that war came huge government spending on defense, thus pumping up the economy and avoiding the continuing spiral downwards of the depression. Since WWII, the U. S. has printed a lot of paper money to finance all that government spending. That is one of the main causes of inflation. But because of this country's enormous wealth and military power, imperialism has always been able to export inflation. What this has meant is that the main effects of inflation were not felt here. It was forced onto the weaker nations who had to trade with the U. S. at inflated prices. The precious foreign aid money that the U. S. sent these countries had to be used just to pay for all those inflated goods. So, while these underdeveloped countries faced skyrocketing prices and unstable economies, our economy stayed relatively stable.

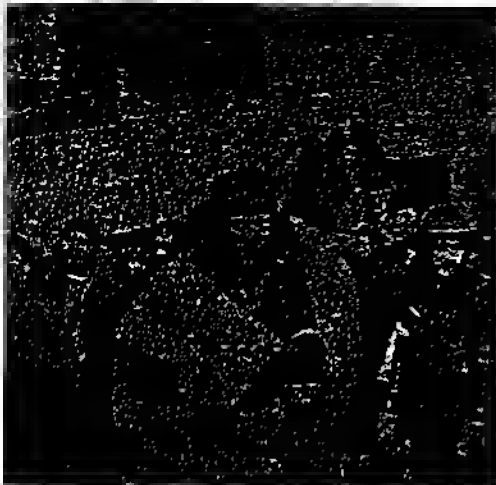
However, those days are gone. The weaker countries did not let this setup continue where they got pushed around and had their resources plundered at will by huge U. S. companies. They are fighting back to gain control of their own resources and destinies, fighting U. S. imperialism tooth and nail. U. S. markets abroad are not secure anymore. With the great defeat handed U. S. im-

perialism by the Indochinese people, all the contradictions that are inherent in this system started coming out again -- this time, full blown.

Prices started to rise. The government reacted with wage controls but prices kept going up. Freezing the wages at a time when prices kept going up exposed the "theory" that it is wage increases that make prices go up. Now the imperialists are really in a bind. Overproduction has led to recession. As shown by President Ford's economic proposals, you can't fight inflation and recession at the same time. It's one or the other without really solving either. They couldn't avoid this crisis anyway, because it is the very nature of imperialism itself that these crises happen. So they must continue to throw people out into the streets to try and save their system -- a system which doesn't serve the interests of poor and working people.

But that's not the answer working people have. Our answer is to fight these layoffs and cutbacks. VVAW/WSO has joined the fight against the attacks that the imperialists have launched on our living and working standards. As part of that fight, we are raising the demand: **JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL!** This system is not run in our interest, so it is not in our interest to save it. We must join together, employed and unemployed, veteran and non-veteran, to fight for our jobs or be given adequate income when our jobs no longer exist. And only by fighting back can we hope to end this rotten system once and for all!

# MENOMINEE INDIANS SEIZE MONASTERY



Menominee Warrior Society

In the early morning hours of New Year's Day, approximately 40 armed members of the militant Menominee Warriors Society seized control of the abandoned Alexian Brothers monastery near Gresham, Wisconsin. They declared it under control of the Menominee people for the purposes of a long-needed medical center for the 4,000 tribe members in the area. From the beginning, these Native Americans withstood, first 250 state and local police, and then 400 Wisconsin National Guardsmen ordered to the site by Wisconsin Governor Lucey. The Menominees have held the monastery for three weeks.

The Indians struggle intensified back in 1954 when the federal government passed the infamous "Termination Bill." When the "Termination Bill"

went into effect in 1961, the Menominee tribe, along with other Indians, were forced for this experiment, which resulted in a loss of status as a federally recognized tribe. The Bill opened up Menominee land as valuable vacation property and timberland to exploitation by big business.

Termination also meant a loss of federal services which included hospital and medical care. In 1963 an epidemic of tuberculosis caused great suffering for the Menominees. The average life expectancy is only 43 years; other problems are a high infant mortality rate, suicides, 25% unemployment, and the highest dropout rate in the state of Wisconsin due to an inadequate educational system.

The determination of the Menominee people now in the monastery, added to by large and militant demonstrations in Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago and other cities have had a telling effect on the government's position. The forcing of the National Guard to allow in food, reduce the number of checkpoints, and turn the electricity on again are examples of the government's weakening position.

## INDIANS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

### "GANIENKEH"

In the Adirondack Mountains, between the town of Eagle Bay, New York and a large tract of state-owned land being "developed" by the International Paper Company, there presently exists the Independent Native American state of Ganienkheh. The Mohawks and other Native Americans from over fifty Indian nations spread across the U.S., Canada and South America have held the land since May of last year. While no outsiders really know how many people are inside Ganienkheh, it is obvious that the newspapers' estimates of 30-90 people are a gross underestimate.

#### Threats, Bullets, Warrants

In the nine months which have passed since they moved in, the Native Americans of Ganienkheh have been harassed by snipers, police threats, warrants and the commercial press.

Beginning in July, there was a series of eleven incidents in which residents of Ganienkheh were fired upon by passersby. On one occasion, a passing jeep fired rounds at a woman, at which time the jeep's license number was reported to the State Police. The police responded with, "Nothing we can do. It's hunting season." Such attacks intensified on the 26th of October, which caused the Native Americans to return fire when fired upon on Oct. 28th. Two people were wounded by the Indians. One of these was a child, and the State Police allegedly found no weapons in the car the child was in; even though the Indians maintain they were fired upon from that car.

The incident was jumped on by the local press, paper company and the

state. What followed was more police harassment, search warrants and threats from police. On one occasion when the Indians cited the provisions of the 1794 treaty, they were told to "Remember Attica." The Syracuse chapter of VVAW/WSO, which has been building mass support and providing food, clothing and other supplies for Ganienkheh, was present as observers when a warrant was to have been served "peacefully" by the state of New York, with trooper cars and police helicopters. When the Indians objected to the intense surveillance, the Herkimer County DA rescinded the warrant and asked the federal government to intervene.

The land, presently under control of the Indians, was stolen by means of an illegal land deal in 1797, when this country was in its early stages of expansion and exploitation. Now that the U.S. is one of the world's imperialist superpowers, it is still the rich man's laws which again threaten the Native Americans' lives, land and culture.

The people of Ganienkheh are attempting to live on their stolen ancestral land. There has been little publicity on Ganienkheh since the Oct. 28th shootings and there probably won't be any until the government prepares a siege. Now is the time to spread the word of the peoples' struggle near Eagle Bay. The struggle at Ganienkheh will not be won by the Native Americans alone; they must have the support of all people. Only by uniting will any of us ever be free of the rich man's law.

#### DEFEND GANIENKEH!



Recent developments have been the beginning of negotiations with the state, with American Indian Movement spokesmen Dennis Banks and Russell Means representing the Menominee people. Negotiations have been broken off periodically when the Indians felt that the State's forces have violated the ceasefire agreement. On January 18th, the Menominee Warrior Society evacuated some of the women and children from the monastery, being skeptical of the intentions of the National Guard, who have maintained that they are there to "enforce" the peace.

Clearly, the government is backing off and the Menominee Tribe expects a victory soon. It is now just a matter of time for the government and business interests to figure out the quickest way out of the situation they're in without the embarrassment of another Wounded Knee. With the continued support of people around the country, the Menominee people will soon have their health center.



At our recent National Committee Meeting, VVAW/W took a stand in support of the Palestinian people and their just struggle. Why do we join with the people of the world and stand with the Palestinian struggle? Because they were robbed of their homeland, and their fight is against our own enemy here -- U.S. imperialism.

Since the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) came to the United Nations, massive propaganda campaigns have been waged through the media to whip up hysteria against the "Palestinian terrorists." The campaign has even gone so far as to distort reality by comparing the Palestinians to the Nazis. All this is going on at the same time that Israel is bombing refugee camps with U.S.-supplied jets and bombs. All this while Israel sends commando teams into Arab countries, killing many civilians.

The purpose of this propaganda is to stir up support for Zionist expansion and aggression, fully backed by the U.S. government. While trying to hide its intentions from the people of the world, the U.S. has consistently backed and supplied the armed adventures of Israelis in their attacks on the Palestinians.

The vast majority of the countries in the world invited the PLO to the UN to discuss the Palestinian question, overruling the objections of the Israeli and delegates. And the people of the world further showed where they stood by electing the head of the PLO and the Israeli delegate to speak before the UN General Assembly. The Palestinian leader Arafat, was greeted with tremendous applause, while almost all the seats in the assembly hall were empty. The Israeli delegate spoke. Most of the countries were hosting a welcome banquet for the Palestinians and boycotted the Israeli speech.

#### Brief History

During the late 1800's, a movement developed among a few rich Jewish businessmen to create a nation-state for Jews. This movement is known as Zionism, and those who back it are known as Zionists. Instead of organizing Jews to struggle against the persecution and injustice coming down on them where they lived, the Zionists held out the idea of forging a Jewish "nation" with themselves at the top. At the same time, the idea had little support from the overwhelmingly poor and working Jewish people, so the Zionists concentrated on getting European and the U.S. governments to politically and materially support their plan.

The British declared in 1917 that it would support such a state in the Middle East specifically in the area called Palestine. This land was already in the hands of Palestinian Arabs, Jews and Christians who had been living there peacefully for thousands of years. With the rise of WWII, many Jews began organizing to resist Hitler, taking up arms and fighting the Nazis. The Zionists, on the other hand, worked

# MIDDLE EAST



Palestinian women training for liberation army

against the resistance movement, using religious leaders. These mis-leaders told the Jewish people that "God was against violence" and that Jews must "wait for a miracle from God."

With the real sympathy that arose for the Jewish people after the fascist atrocities took place, the Zionists pushed for the takeover of Palestine. Helped by the British to form Jewish military units and excluding the Palestinians already there from government, the Zionists got the help of the U.S. government, which was only too willing to have a state that would support U.S. policy in the Middle East. With ever-increasing swiftness, the Jewish colonizers pushed the Palestinian Arabs from their land.

Since its creation by the UN in 1948, Israel has never stopped its drive for more territory. In 1956, Israel, Great Britain and France attacked Egypt to try to seize control of the Suez canal, a very vital link in that oil-rich area. In 1967, Israel launched a major attack on almost all its Arab neighbors and seized great chunks of land from them.

#### Today

Now, the U.S. government sends Henry Kissinger scurrying around the Middle East in order to try to force a political settlement on the Arabs and Palestinians which would keep the U.S. in a favorable position. Key to their idea of "favorable" is the continued existence of the state of Israel, forcing the Arabs to recognize Israel's right to exist and forcing the Palestinians to give up their struggle to regain their homeland. All this is done with the aim in mind of gaining U.S. control of the oil and the Middle East.

The Soviet Union, the other big superpower with its hands in the Middle East, shares the same idea as the U.S. for a favorable settlement, but favorable to the Soviet Union -- that is, control of the oil and the Middle East for the USSR. So, to compete with the U.S. which openly backs Israel, the USSR poses as the friend of the Arabs. But the Soviet Union is not a real friend of the Arab and Palestinian peoples. Instead, just like the U.S., it operates in its own narrow interests. For instance, during the recent Arab oil boycott, the USSR forced Iraq to sell a quantity of oil to them as partial payment for arms shipments. Then they turned around and sold this same oil to West Germany for 3 times the price they paid for it.

So, just like the U.S., the USSR wants a part of the action in any political settlement in the Middle East area so it can keep its thumb in the pie. There is the real danger in this contention between the two superpowers of a new World War breaking out, as the U.S. and the USSR compete for control of the Middle East.

Thousands of poor and working people died in Vietnam to protect the interests of U.S. imperialism, but the struggle of the Vietnamese people, the resistance of GIs and a vast amount of the American people is putting an end to U.S. involvement there. The lessons learned from that struggle will not be forgotten, and it is up to the American people to resist every attempt to draw us into another war -- this time in the Middle East.

## Regional Offices

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### NATIONAL G.I. PROJECT OFFICE

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### POST-VIETNAM SYNDROME CLEARINGHOUSE

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212  
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### AMNESTY/PRISON PROJECT OFFICE

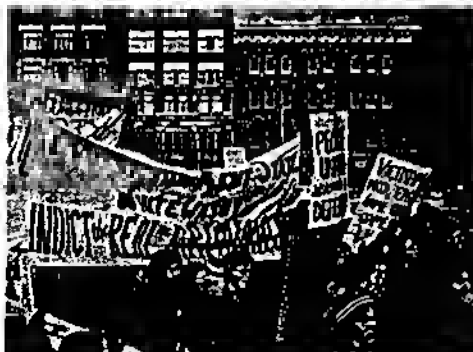
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### UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

## COLUMBUS, OHIO

# DEMONSTRATION BLASTS KENT STATE WHITEWASH



Indict the real criminals! Universal and Unconditional Amnesty for all War Resisters! End all Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol -- Implement the Agreements! And End all Attacks on Working Class and other Oppressed People!

The rally began with a VVAW/WSO speaker, who talked about the demand for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty, followed by speakers from the Revolutionary Union and Revolutionary Student Brigade, who linked the demands with the rising anti-imperialist movement in this country today.

Over 450 militant demonstrators from Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky took the Columbus, Ohio streets in sub-freezing weather to protest the Kent State whitewash and demonstrate against the inauguration of Governor-elect James ("The Killer") Rhodes on Jan. 13th. Demonstrators drowned out Rhodes' inaugural address with the chant, "Rhodes, you filthy liar -- the people find you guilty!"

The demonstration was planned and carried out by the May 4th Coalition, made up of VVAW/WSO; Revolutionary Union, Revolutionary Student Brigade, National Lawyers Guild, Columbus Tenant's Union staff, and various community groups. The demands of the demonstration directed at Rhodes -- the governor responsible for the shooting of the 4 Kent State students on May 4th, 1970 -- were: Protest the Kent State whitewash

After the rally, the march began by utilizing the sidewalk permit to march to the Statehouse but it soon became clear that the militant demonstrators would not be contained on the sidewalks; with the chant, "The People United will Never be Defeated," the demonstrators took to the streets. When the demonstrators arrived at the Statehouse, Rhodes was about one quarter of the way finished with his address. Seeing the crowd of demonstrators, which had grown as people along the streets joined in, Rhodes was visibly shaken. The demonstrators, equaling the number of spectators at the address, then marched directly to the platform and drowned out the remainder of Rhodes' speech.

Following the speech, the demonstrators took over the North steps of the Statehouse. From inside, 100 State troopers charged out; several demonstrators were maced and several police-

men hospitalized in the scuffle. At best, the police were only able to clear a narrow corridor through the demonstrators who would not move. The action continued as demonstrators marched to a statue on the Statehouse grounds where a rally there heard from the mother of one of the Attica Brothers: Mike Branch an anti-imperialist ex-POW; and a speaker from the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee. All of these speakers spoke about the role of U.S. imperialism, both at home and abroad.

When the rally ended, the demonstrators marched back to the federal courthouse where an effigy of Rhodes was burned. Clearly the people of Ohio remember Kent State and as long as Rhodes remains in office, the people won't let him forget his role as the murderer of the four students.

The demonstration was sparked by the recent continuation of the Kent State whitewash, specifically the acquittal of the 8 National Guardsmen, which many felt was a smokescreen for the real criminals -- Governor Rhodes, the then-Commander of the Ohio National Guard, S. Del Corao, and the system they represent. While the individual guardsmen should have been held responsible for their actions at Kent, the people responsible for the entire event, Rhodes and Del Corao, along with the Nixon and Ford administrations, perpetuated and encouraged the cover-up. The incident was publicized as a tragic error; in reality, it was to serve as an example for the student movement when the government considered it was time to start shooting. As a result of the murders at Kent, the student movement did not die but grew. As one of the banners of the march in Columbus read: "Remember Kent State; It's Right to Rebel."



# VETERANS DEMAND JOBS pg4

## WINTER SOLDIER

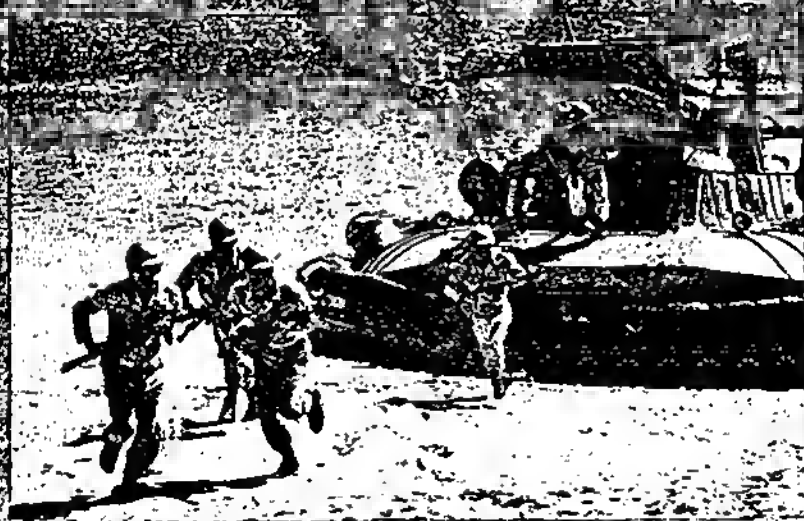
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AGAINST THE WAR / WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

25

## GROWING DANGER OF WAR OVER MIDDLE EAST OIL

see centerfold



Iranian troops invade Dhofar

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WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

827 WEST NEWPORT

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# EDITORIAL

No one needs to be told that the system is in crisis: already, we're out of work, no jobs, disability payments sliced, food priced out of reach while food stamps are cutback--the list goes on and on. The system is going straight to hell, and we're told that the best we can do is to "sacrifice."

Our sacrifice in buying gas at 70¢ (or more!) a gallon isn't going to save the system: we know that, and so do the people who run this system. Sure, they are going to try lying a while longer, talking about the light at the end of the tunnel, and how there will be a lessening of the rate of inflationary increase so that food prices will only go up 13% instead of 15%, and all the rest of the gobbledygook that official Washington spews out. But they know there is only one sure way to preserve their system, at least temporarily--and that is war.

War is good business. The people who make super-profits by exploiting working people here in the US and around the world have a long history in the war business. Whenever their system is in deep crisis, they can manufacture all kinds of reasons why a war is necessary. Maybe it's to prevent "strangulation" by oil-producing countries as Kissinger recently said. Or it's to prevent a "communist" takeover in Southeast Asia, the supposed reason for the Vietnam war. Of course, the exploiters won't be there fighting the war.

Signs are all around us. The most recent is the Vinnell Corporation hiring mercenaries (mostly unemployed vets) to train "internal security" forces in Saudi Arabia. We don't know when they have the next war planned--tomorrow or a year down the road. But we do know that the system of imperialism needs war to survive, and that we want no part of it. Many of us in VVAW/WSO have already been through one imperialist war--we see what it did, and is still doing, in Vietnam, and what it is doing in the US.

Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29th, was designed by the government to glorify that imperialist war. We say that we won't fight their imperialist wars--that we've had enough of their system and the wars it needs to continue to survive. We see its scheme and will fight until that system is smashed.



WINTER SOLDIER

# VA PATIENTS TAKE ON HOSPITAL COPS

Following a Dec. 18th demonstration at the Woods VA hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and after consistent daily work, the Milwaukee chapter of VVAW/WSO returned to Woods on the evening of Feb. 20th to hold a presentation and dinner for the patients there.

The Dec. 18th demonstration--called to protest cutbacks of the VA staff, proposed taxes on vets' pensions, an inadequate GI Bill, lack of jobs, and no benefits for thousands of vets with bad discharges--was attacked by the VA police. In the ensuing 25 minute battle, eleven demonstrators were arrested. After the demonstration on Dec. 18th, VVAW/WSO members said they would return to continue their "War on the VA" which had widespread support among the patients at the hospital, including WWII and Korean war vets. Given this support for the work of the VVAW/WSO chapter among the patients and community, the VA was forced to change their tactics and allow the Milwaukee chapter access to the hospital to talk to patients and distribute WINTER SOLDIER.

On Feb. 20th, after the dinner and a few speakers, the chapter proceeded to show the video tape of the Dec. 18th demonstration at the hospital. At this point, several VA police forced their way into the auditorium, attempted to hustle patients out and became involved in a pushing and shoving match with the VVAW/WSO chapter members; in the course of the scuffle, the TV set was pushed over and smashed.

As the room slowly cleared and VVAW/WSO people moved into the hall, one chapter member was jumped by 3 VA cops, who informed the VVAW/WSO member he was under arrest for destruction of government property. Before the chapter members could come to the rescue, thirty hospital patients boldly surrounded the armed cops and jumped them, forcing them to release the prisoner and retreat down the hall. The patients obviously did not want to see VVAW/WSO members arrested.

Not satisfied with freeing the VVAW/WSO member, the enraged VA patients backed the cops down the corridor where they cornered them. One patient deftly administered an extremely solid left hook to the jaw of the hospital recreation director. In another part of the corridor, several patients cornered another patient who they informed the chapter members was a snitch for the police. They proceeded to firmly smash him in the face with left-over food from the dinner.

The disturbance of the program was another slap in the face to the VA patients who had been continually harassed since the Dec. 18th demonstration by, among other things, having their copies of WINTER SOLDIER forcefully taken from them and VVAW/WSO buttons ripped off their clothes. Their outburst of rage was stoked by the unbearable conditions at the hospital, poor medical treatment, and a continual campaign of threats, intimidation and terror against the patients since VVAW/WSO began working at the Woods hospital on a regular basis last year.

Instead of cooling down the rising movement of vets in the hospital, the government cops have now completely unified the people inside and outside the hospital by their repressive tactics. Milwaukee chapter members have stated that they believe the cops and VA officials will now try to isolate the patients and step up their harassment, which will make it necessary for VVAW/WSO people to be at the hospital on a day-to-day basis fighting beside the patients.

This is just another example of how when the pressure is on, the people fight back, as it is being done around the country by the rising movement of vets and other people to bring down the system that oppresses us all. Unity is the key to victory in the struggle in Milwaukee and around the country. The people united will never be defeated!

## WINTER SOLDIER

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MARCH

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# VVAW-WSO DEMOS DEMAND END TO INDOCHINA WAR



San Diego demo at Unemployment Office



Seattle demo burns "US Imperialism" and its puppet

Two years ago, January 27, 1973, the US was forced to sign the Paris Peace Agreement which led to the removal of most US combat troops from Indochina and supposedly ended the Vietnam war. The signing of the Paris Agreement marked an incredible victory for the Vietnamese people, as well as for peace-loving people all over the world. VVAW/WSO chapters around the country held demonstrations celebrating this victory and, since the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia still rage on, demanded that the US government actually implement the agreement that it has signed. Because the war in Indochina goes on solely due to the massive military and economic aid the US pours into the pockets of its puppet governments in Saigon and Phnom Penh, VVAW/WSO also demanded that the US end all aid to the corrupt Thieu regime in S. Vietnam and the Lon Nol regime in Cambodia.

The January demonstrations varied from place to place in terms of what actions were undertaken, some being solely VVAW/WSO organized and others being coalitional efforts. They were all aimed at mobilizing people to organize and fight back against this lousy system of imperialism we live under--a system that's run by and for the large business interests in this country at the expense of the people in the US and around the world. The massive unemployment, runaway inflation and vicious police repression we face in the US today are every bit as much a result of the same cause as the ongoing war in Indochina: US imperialism. As was pointed out in the chants of many of the demonstrations, it is the "Same Struggle, Same Fight--People of the World Unite!"

No better example of how we must organize ourselves to fight back against the conditions we face in the US can be found than in the determined and heroic struggle of the Indochinese people. It was in this spirit that VVAW/WSO chapters built for the Jan. 27th actions; towards the end of actually organizing people to fight back--not to idly sit and complain about them.

All totalled, over 15 actions were held, including cities such as Seattle; Portland and Eugene, OR; Mountain Home, ID; San Francisco, San Jose, Riverside and San Diego, CA; Minneapolis, MN; Dayton, OH; Houston, TX; Buffalo, NY; Washington, DC; and Burlington, VT. In the single largest action, a rally was held in San Francisco; after the rally, about 750 people marched to the Saigon Consulate where 13 VVAW/WSO members had seized the office. While the 13 people inside were arrested, the San Francisco tactical squad attacked the demonstrators outside and a major brawl erupted with one elderly man being thrown through a plate glass window. Other demonstrations were smaller in number, with anywhere from 50 to 200 people turning out. But it was in many of these small actions that VVAW/WSO made perhaps the most significant gains--initiating activity in cities that it hasn't been organizing in and reaching out to many new people who had previously never actively been involved in the fight to end the war in Indochina.

In places like Houston, Texas, where comparatively little activity of this nature has gone on in recent years, the demonstration was jointly built by a number of groups: the Iranian Students Association, the African Liberation Support Comm, the Revolutionary Union and a local anti-imperialist worker's paper, the Houston Worker, among them. There, 90 people, including many veterans and GIs from nearby Ft. Hood, marched in a very militant, spirited demonstration through the center of town. Many onlookers along the route of march cheered on the demonstrators with a number joining in the action. In an area where there is "supposedly" little sympathy for such activity, the response the demonstrators received from the people of Houston was overwhelmingly positive. The work that went into building for this action was a significant success in and of itself. The coalition managed to get out thousands of leaflets to the major factories in the area and thus, reached many workers

who couldn't actually attend the demonstration themselves. The reception they got from the workers was typified by one who liked the leaflet so well that he took a handful and passed them out to the rest of the workers in his section.

Elsewhere, as in San Diego, the January 27th actions similarly were successful in drawing many new people in to the struggle and sparking new VVAW/WSO organizing work. The San Diego demonstration, called by VVAW/WSO, drew over 65 veterans and non-vets to demand "Jobs or Income for All" at the state unemployment office. From there, the demonstrators marched to the regional Veterans Administration office raising a demand for "Decent Benefits for All Vets." By tying these demands into the ongoing war in Indochina, showing how the war is directly related to the rising unemployment figures and the many problems vets face from the VA, the action drew a concrete link between the struggle of the Indochinese and the same struggle veterans and all people face in the U.S. The San Diego action was characterized by a lot of militant chanting and a solid fighting spirit. A good two-thirds of the participants in the action were people taking part in a demonstration for the first time--most having heard about it from the work the chapter had done at the unemployment center.

More than anything else, the Jan. 27th actions point to the increasing militance and number of people who are coming forward to join the struggle and fight back against the ongoing war in Indochina. Our task is to continue to build on these gains and draw in ever larger numbers of new people to fight with us; given the experience of Jan. 27, 1975, that's exactly what's happening. For information on how you can get involved, contact your local chapter or the National Office of VVAW/WSO.

IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT--  
END ALL AID TO THIEU & LON NOL!  
SEIZE THE TIMES--  
UNITE TO FIGHT!

# NYC VETS CONFRONT CITY HACKS FOR JOBS

Vietnam-era vets are one group of people particularly hard hit among the millions of unemployed. Vets have not been sitting idly back accepting this situation, but have been taking their dissatisfaction with the economy into the streets and confronting sham employment programs that make promises but can't deliver.

On Jan. 20th, 100 Vietnam-era vets took over a branch office of the Mayor's Office for Vets Action (MOVA) in the Bronx. MOVA is a sham vets program set up by the city of New York to give the appearance that someone is doing something about the problems of vets, when in reality, no "action" occurs at all. MOVA is a front office with no budget of its own and no regular employees. Its personnel, with the exception of Commissioner Milton Williams, are borrowed from other NYC agencies to give the appearance of a functioning program. Mr. Williams, an ex-cop on salary for \$40,000 a year, is a well known figure in New York; he participated in the Attica Massacre whitewash and is suspected of having instigated the attack on VVAW/WSO members at Shea Stadium during the "Honor Vietnam Veterans Day" program, which he organized and directed. Vets in NYC have little doubt about whose interests Williams is really working for -- and it is certainly not for the people.

The vets seized the Bronx office of MOVA because jobs previously promised to them had been withdrawn by the Mayor's Office. While the story given the vets was that a training program with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) had its job allocations frozen, the local MOVA bureaucrats spilled the beans under pressure. It seems that the training program arranged through MOVA by the MTA would have been hiring vets at low pay, while at the same time MTA is laying off hundreds of its regular workers. After the union representing these MTA workers caught wind of this scheme, they told the Mayor's Office "no dice." MOVA

then moved fast and cancelled the job allocations.

Informed of the reasons why there were no jobs to be had, an overwhelming majority of the vets responded that they wouldn't take jobs as scabs anyway. Faced with an angry crowd of predominantly Black and Puerto Rican vets, the MOVA branch officials did a bureaucratic shuffle and tap dance and suggested the vets take their questions to Commissioner Williams' office and ask him why they were going to be used as scabs and why there were now no jobs available. Storming into the Commissioner's office, the vets were once again put off by MOVA officials who assured them that jobs would be available the next morning at the branch office in the Bronx.

The vets returned to the Bronx office the following morning to find that only a few jobs were available. These jobs included doing finger printing, being security guards, janitorial work and a few other jobs that required a number of years experience. The pay scale for these positions averaged around \$2.50 an hour with the jobs expiring in 13 months -- meaning eventual layoffs. To top it off, requirements such as no bad discharges or criminal records went with the jobs. One vet asked the Bronx officials, "What other types of discrimination are requirements?"

At this point, the enraged vets, including many who were forced to accept the "starvation-wage" jobs out of sheer desperation, had had it with the bullshit runaround the Mayor's Office had been giving them. Raising the two demands, "Decent Jobs" and "End Discrimination in Hiring," the militant group once again confronted the Commissioner's office and denounced MOVA for promising what they couldn't deliver and using all-time maneuvers to cover their lies. True to form, the Commissioner's office gave them the old "hang on folks, jobs for everyone are coming" routine which none of the vets swallowed this time.

He then left more or less empty handed and in disgust, during the course of the struggle, the New York City chapter of VVAW/WSO joined with the spontaneous vets group. They talked about how the problem of unemployment was one facing millions of American working people, and not just veterans. The VVAW/WSO chapter went on to say that veterans and other working people have to unite to demand jobs or income for all people, because only through this unity can we effectively fight the cutbacks presently confronting us all. They also discussed the role of these sham "vets opportunity" groups, which raise the banner of "vets-vets-vets" but do nothing. At the same time, the chapter talked about how groups such as MOVA attempt to separate the struggles of vets from other working people in this country by placing them on a pedestal rather than showing where their real unity lies. NYC VVAW/WSO is maintaining contact with these vets, and they intend to carry out more actions around unemployment in the future.

The problems these vets in New York are having finding jobs are the same problems facing millions of working people across the country. It is for this reason that VVAW/WSO is working around the crisis of unemployment -- not only as it confronts vets, but as it affects all working people.

## DEMONSTRATE ON MARCH 29th VIETNAM VETS DAY!

On March 29th, which is Vietnam Veterans Day, VVAW/WSO chapters around the country will be holding demonstrations.

Vietnam Veterans Day was originally established by the Nixon administration to allegedly "show appreciation for Vietnam-era Vets." In actuality, however, it was designed to whitewash the piss-poor treatment of Vietnam vets and the continuing war in Indochina. VVAW/WSO took to the streets last year to expose this farce.

Now, one year later, VVAW/WSO will once again demonstrate the true feeling of Vietnam-era vets and expose the nature of the system of imperialism -- which oppresses us all -- to the American people. The national demands of the demonstration are:

- \* UNIVERSAL, UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR ALL WAR RESISTERS!
- \* IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS -- END ALL AID TO THIEU & LON NOL!
- \* DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS!
- \* SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS!
- \* JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL!

For further information on how you can join these demonstrations, contact your local chapter of VVAW/WSO or Regional Office as listed in this paper (see p. 2).



# PEOPLE BATTLE COPS FREE ANTOWYN!



The Battle of 18th St in Chicago

The struggle to free Antowyn Cauley and to stop police repression was brought to the streets of Chicago on January 25th. About 200 people began a spirited march in the Mexican-Polish community of Pilsen despite cold, snowing weather. Chants of "People Unite, Let's Fight On, Stop Police Repression, Free Antowyn!" rang through the community as the demonstrators marched on a local police station, demanding Antowyn's freedom, stopping police repression and ending deportations of Mexican workers. After a militant picket line at the police station, the demonstration continued through the main street of Pilsen where a raging battle between the police and the demonstrators occurred, culminating in victory for the people and defeat for the cops.

The demonstration was organized by the Coalition to Free Antowyn Cauley. Among the groups in it is VVAW/WSO. The coalition was formed last summer after Antowyn Cauley, a young black man, was shot by police in the Juneway

Terrace community of northern Chicago. What had happened was typical of police terrorism. As cops were hassling a group of community people a crowd had gathered around them. Fearing the crowd, the cops tried to disperse them. Antowyn, who was standing by shouted, "You cops aren't so tough when there's only one of you." As he turned to walk away, several cops jumped him and one, John Wilson, shot him in the side. To cover up this shooting the cops charged him with disorderly conduct, aggravated assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

Police terrorism in Black and Latino communities is especially intense as the crisis of imperialism deepens; resulting in massive unemployment, huge price hikes and soaring inflation. The formation of the coalition and the struggle to free Antowyn is a struggle to end this brutal exploitation of the people. The January 25th demonstration was another part of the overall campaign of the coalition.

The fight with the cops broke out when the cops tried to stop the marchers who had taken the streets to bring the campaign to the people of Pilsen. As the cops began attacking people, the people fought back. One cop was seen hitting the pavement with blood gushing from a gash in his head. Even though the cops succeeded in breaking the march in two, they were totally outfought. Despite police reinforcements, the demonstrators were able to beat them down, enlisting the support of countless community people who were standing alongside cheering the marchers on and shouting down the police. Some of the people joined in the fight. After the 'dust' had cleared 17 demonstrators were arrested and at least 8 cops were in need of immediate medical care.

From there the remainder of the demonstrators and many community people went on to an indoor rally where speakers from the Revolutionary Union, the Iranian Students Association and VVAW/WSO, among others, spoke about police repression and the rising struggles of people to defeat the imperialist system responsible for it. The multi-national rally was spirited and united.

That night about 100 people came to a picket line in support of the 17 people who were arrested. All were free by the next morning and subsequently charges were dropped on all but seven; six of whom were charged with felonies. Four of these people are members of VVAW/WSO.

Since the demonstration, members of the Cauley coalition have been leafletting the Pilsen community and are finding that the community people fully support the demands of the coalition. The coalition has doubled in size and the fight to free Antowyn and stop police repression continues to grow in Chicago.

## STUDENTS FIGHT TUITION HIKES

In early December, President Ford vetoed a GI Bill Increase of 23%, but Congress overrode that veto. Going one step further, on Feb. 13th, the White House proposed an elimination of the GI Bill for future veterans. Though the GI Bill did go into effect, it is still grossly inadequate when considering the rising rate of inflation and costs of tuition.

Ford's proposal to eliminate the GI Bill is just one more example of the many cut-backs that vets are facing. At the same time, however, all students are finding it increasingly difficult to get an education -- prices are rising all the time, there are cut-backs in the quality of education, and tuition costs are going up. For example, the state of Washington Council on Higher Education recently announced a 32% increase in tuition fees for community colleges and state universities. Ironically, this announcement of the tuition hikes came the day after the GI Bill increase went into ef-

fect (meaning that vets were already 9% behind one day after the GI Bill hike).

Students in Washington are not taking these hikes lying down, but are building a movement to fight back against them. VVAW/WSO chapters in Tacoma and Seattle are working with the Revolutionary Student Brigade to build a campaign to fight these tuition hikes. An example of the dollars and cents of these hikes means that at the Tacoma Community College, tuition costs have jumped from \$83 to \$110. But it is not just the money that matters; tuition increases are an attack on working people everywhere. It is the sons and daughters of working people that are the hardest hit by these increases and who are finding it harder and harder to stay in school for financial reasons. Because of this, VVAW/WSO in Washington sees that the major way to fight these increases is by building a fighting movement of students -- including vets -- to oppose this rip-off.

The campaign to fight the hikes is being waged under two major slogans: "Fight the Tuition Rip-Off" and "Hard Times are Fighting Times." This campaign is being taken to students at campuses in both Tacoma and Seattle. Though many of the students have become demoralized by the tuition increases and don't think there is much that can be done to fight them, many other students are rallying around these slogans and organizing themselves. For example, on Feb. 20th, VVAW/WSO and RSB called a demonstration at the University of Seattle. Over 100 students came out to this very spirited demonstration and showed many other students that through unity, there is a way to fight these kinds of attacks.

Washington is not the only state where tuition increases and cut-backs in education are being made, because these kinds of attacks are confronting students all over the country; and cut-backs in education are just a part of the overall attacks that are coming down on working people throughout the US. But these cut-backs can and are being fought. Hard times definitely are fighting times and the students in Washington are proving this out.

On New Year's Day the Peoples National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia (PNLAFC) launched a major offensive that could well be the final, decisive stage of the 5 year-long war there. Since Jan. 1st, the PNLAFC has totally isolated Phnom Penh, cutting off all supply lines and killing or wounding over 10,000 enemy troops out of an estimated total of 50,000 combat troops. The US-run government of Pres. Lon Nol in Phnom Penh is teetering on the brink of total collapse, held up only by the massive US airlift being flown daily into Phnom Penh. With more than 4,000 military advisors illegally in Cambodia, the US has never made much pretense about who ran the show. Now, with the worsening crisis, all decisions are openly made directly from the US embassy there.

Acting under the direction of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (GRUNC), the PNLAFC has totally cut the strategic Mekong river from Phnom Penh to Vietnam. Normally 80% of all Phnom Penh's supplies come by ship up the Mekong. With the river cut by PNLAFC troops, supplies haven't made it the 60 miles up the river to Phnom Penh for nearly a month. Attempts to run convoys of ships up the river have proved disastrous; between Jan. 1 and Feb. 6 alone, over 220 vessels of various types were put out of action. A feeble attempt to dislodge liberation troops from the river banks with a ground attack in late Feb. led to the destruction of over 3/4ths of the Lon Nol troops involved. More recently, the last single land link to Phnom Penh was cut on Feb. 21st when PNLAFC troops blew up a train near the Cambodian-Thai border.

All supplies must now come by air into Phnom Penh's Pochentong Airport now under regular rocket attack. As a rule, the city needs a minimum of 500 tons of ammo and 500 tons of rice and other supplies per day. The US has tried to meet this requirement with an expensive emergency airlift conducted by the US Air Force under the guise of a thinly camouflaged 'commercial' airlines called Bird Air. Bird Air utilizes USAF C-130 transports with their insignia painted over and USAF pilots recently 'returned' to the area as 'civilians'. Contrary to US statements of 20 flights a day to Phnom Penh, GRUNC estimates that USAF planes are making from 80-120 flights a day. Since these planes only bring military supplies, rice and fuel is being rationed to the population 'under American Embassy direction.'

The US position in Cambodia is desperate. Sec. of Defense James Schlesinger stated that Cambodia would "absolutely" be lost if Congress does not approve an emergency \$222 million dollar supplemental appropriations bill for the Lon Nol regime made by Pres. Ford on Jan. 28th. But with or without the additional funds, it is clear that it is only a matter of time until Lon Nol is completely smashed. As Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of GRUNC, said on Feb. 5th, "Even if Pres. Ford and Mr. Kissinger of the US obtain billions of dollars from the US Congress... the GRUNC and the PNLAFC and Norodom Sihanouk... never will... give up struggling for total national liberation... the liberty and honor of Cambodia have no price."

The Lon Nol government, forced to draft 12 year-old children and empty the jails of Phnom Penh to fill out his army, has no support whatsoever from the civ-

# CAMBODIA: TOWARDS FINAL VICTORY



PNLAFC fighters ready to fire at enemy vessels along the Mekong River

ilian population. As his troops are wiped out, there simply aren't any people to replace them with. Since Jan. 1st, well over 60,000 people have fled Phnom Penh to the liberated areas. Food riots, forced donations of blood to wounded troops, etc. are everyday occurrences.

The alternatives the US has are clear. One is to get out once and for all and allow the Cambodian people to live in peace and the other is to reintroduce massive US bombing and troops. VVAW/WSO urges all people in the US to prepare to meet either of these two alternatives. Should the US

attempt to undertake combat operations in Cambodia all peace loving people should unite together to stop the move through direct mass action. If the US government resigns itself to the inevitable and pulls out of Cambodia once and for all, VVAW/WSO urges the holding of victory celebrations to honor the fall of the Lon Nol regime and the defeat of US imperialism in Cambodia.

**A VICTORY FOR ONE IS A VICTORY FOR ALL... FINAL VICTORY FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE!!!!**

## WHAT IS VVAW-WSO?

Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) is a mass, anti-imperialist organization which focuses its work on the struggles of veterans and GIs. We began as a group of Vietnam veterans actively protesting the war in Indochina. As our protest grew, however, we came to realize that the real problem was not just the war but the system of imperialism. Based on our experiences in Vietnam and our experiences after we returned to the United States, we now see what imperialism is: the system which exploits the poor and working people around the world and here at home in the interests of the corporate profit-makers. Imperialism needs wars like Vietnam in order to survive.

Today, we are fighting against imperialism on two fronts. As we have in the past, we actively support the liberation struggles of the indochinese people and demand an end to US involvement in Indochina. Since we see that imperialism also exploits people all around the world, we support the many other liberation struggles as people fight for freedom and independence.

But we see that the same system of imperialism which tries to suppress other people is hard at work here in the United States. As a result, we have taken up people's struggles at home. We have declared war on the whole Veterans Administration network which does not and cannot meet the real needs of veterans. We struggle against the racism and repression in the US military. Because of the current economic crisis, we are fighting for jobs or income for all, not just for veterans who are hard hit by unemployment, but for all people who cannot get work under the system of imperialism. We work with political prisoners around the country in support of their struggles. And we are in the forefront of the fight for universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters. All of these struggles are part of the overall struggle against imperialism; they make up our national program for action.

This program is carried out by our members who work in chapters throughout the US and overseas in Japan and England. Chapters also work on local programs and campaigns. Our members are veterans and non-veterans, GIs and civilians who struggle to end imperialism, understand the importance of building a fighting veterans and GI movement, and are making that movement grow. We are doing our part to fight a system which oppresses us all; if you want to join in that fight, or to get more information about our national or local programs, contact the local VVAW/WSO chapter, the regional office, or the VVAW/WSO National Office, 827 W. Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (phone: 312-935-2129).



# CELEBRATE WOMEN'S DAY



NYC Demo, International Womens Day 1974

On March 8th, people around the world will be celebrating International Women's Day -- a holiday for honoring working women everywhere. IWD originated in memory of two all-women strikes which took place in New York City. In 1857 and 1908, women garment workers marched to demand better working conditions, equal rights and an end to sweatshops and child labor. At both times when these thousands of women came together to raise their voices for a decent living standard, police used violence to break their ranks. In 1910, March 8th was proclaimed International Women's Day, and has since been set aside for celebrations honoring women the world over.

Women have a proud and heroic history of fighting against oppression, both in this country and around the world. Women from Vietnam to Guinea-Bissau have played major roles in the liberation struggles of their countries against colonial rule and foreign aggression. Here in the US, the struggles of women go all the way back to the slave rebellions of the 1800s, and have continued through the thousands of strikes and mass struggles that the American people have since been waging.

Today, in these times of growing economic crisis, the role of women in the struggle against oppression continues to become ever more proud and courageous. At Farah plants in the Southwest, and at Oneita plants in South Carolina, women went out on strike -- and they stayed there until they won the right to unionize. Women, such as the wives of the miners in the coal fields of Kentucky, stayed long hours on picket lines, demanding better working conditions and safety regulations, while having to physically battle scabs. With unemployment soaring, women (and particularly minority women) are in the forefront of the fight against a crumbling

economy.

By looking at some of the reasons behind the high rate of unemployment for women, we can see where the oppression of women is really coming from. Women are oppressed by the system of imperialism -- a system wherein the owners of the corporations steal their profits from the work and sweat of the people. This means that it is the workers who produce all the wealth, yet it is the owners of the factories and mines who own and control everything. In order to continue their rule, these owners and bosses must foster disunity among people, figuring that by doing so, men and women will not be able to identify their real enemy and unite to defeat it. So, just as the imperialists pit whites against Black and other minority people, they also try to divide men and women. This is done by encouraging chauvinist ideas such as "women's place is in the home" and "women are dependent." With these ideas, people are supposed to believe that all women can do is keep house and raise children, and heaven help the woman who just might decide that the struggles being waged by working men also belong to women and vice versa!

Workers are paid wages based on what amount of money is "necessary" to keep that worker and his family alive so that the worker can continue producing wealth for the corporate owners. But in the vast majority of cases, the worker's wages fall far short of what is actually needed to stay alive. It is for this reason that many women entered the labor force. Today, over 45% of all women hold jobs -- mainly because it became clear that there was no other way to survive -- the income of the family had to be increased if food was to be kept on the table. Approximately 43% of working women are the sole means of support of

their families. Yet, in many cases, corporations are able to hire women and pay considerably less than men would receive for the same work. In other cases, women are forced into some of the most menial and least fulfilling jobs. This is done with the rationale that since women aren't "responsible" for supporting a family and are only working because they "want" to, women don't need more money. Try telling that to the working women in the US! By paying minimal wages to women, the bosses are using a cheap source of labor, and at the same time, they are able to threaten men workers (hoping to keep them submissive) by claiming that if they don't want to work for a certain wage, they can always find a woman to do the job; thus, the price of all workers wages are driven down.

During times of economic crisis (which are becoming increasingly frequent and severe) the imperialists decide that some women should return to the home. This is because the profits of the corporations are falling, and if profits are to rise again, lay-offs are a "necessity," i.e. companies can no longer afford to pay all of their workers. Since business operates on the theory that workers only need enough money to be able to stay alive, cut-backs will first be made against people who they claim don't really have to work. (This whole idea ignores the fact that people are underpaid in the first place and in most cases, more than one person in a family needs employment for survival). Because of this, women are among the first to be laid off and they are then forced into the ranks of the unemployed. If the corporate owners later decide to build up their work force, they have a ready-made labor pool from which workers can be drawn.

Women are not accepting this severe form of oppression but are organizing and fighting back against it. During the strike wave which recently hit the US, women played leading roles in the struggles to unionize and improve their living and working conditions. On other fronts, women are deeply involved in the struggle against U.S. aggression abroad. Women played key roles in forcing the US to sign the Paris Peace Agreement and are continuing to oppose US involvement in Indochina. Women are involved in the struggles going on in our communities against police attacks and repression. Women are in the front lines of fighting the oppression of third world people in the US, as well as organizing to fight the rising rate of inflation, rampant unemployment, and the general attacks on the living standards of all people.

International Women's Day is a tribute to working and struggling women everywhere. It is a holiday which signals the rising of the women of the world who are uniting with other women and with men for the purpose of achieving liberation for themselves and for society as a whole. As people around the world come together to celebrate International Women's Day, let us here in the US also continue to build unity between men and women by celebrating the role women have played in the struggle to defeat imperialism the world over.

# WE WILL NOT FIGHT AI



"War is what we need to get out of the recession." With these words, Elliot Janeway, a leading corporate economist, laid the cards on the table. The news is full of war preparations. US troops in Georgia have been getting desert warfare training and contingency plans have been revealed by the Pentagon for the possible invasion of the Persian Gulf, the most oil-rich area of the world. US corporations are hiring mercenaries to go to the Middle East to train the armies of reactionary governments that "lean" towards the United States. The Northrop Corporation has been sending helicopter pilots to the area and training the local military. An operation similar to what is being done (and has been going on for years) in Vietnam. The Vinnell Corporation, a California firm, has put ads in newspapers for Vietnam veterans to go to Saudi Arabia to train their National Guard.

All this is taking place when the system is in deep crisis. The United States, as well as most industrial countries, faces high unemployment, inflation and general collapse of production. All the contradictions of a system based on maximizing profits are sharpening, and the solutions of the masters of this system are all meant to throw the greatest burden of the crisis onto the backs of poor and working people. Preparations for war and economic crisis—these are two sides of the same coin, the coin of an imperialist system. War is precisely the solution that our corporate masters are planning because it is the only solution that will temporarily "save" their system. Profits demand markets and resources and the only markets and resources that are up for "grabs" belong to the peoples of the Third World.

There's the rub. The peoples of the Third World are fighting back, no longer willing to let foreign powers dominate and control their resources and lives. The people of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau are leading examples of how the Third World is fighting for national liberation and forcing the system of imperialism to look elsewhere for its profits and domination. At the very heart of this worldwide struggle are the Arab and Persian Gulf region peo-

ples. On the one side is the conflict of the Palestinian people fighting to regain their lost homeland seized from them by force, a homeland now controlled by the state of Israel. On the other side are the desperate maneuvers of the imperialist powers to retain control of the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

War threatens from many sides. The Arab countries will not allow Israel to continue occupying the territories seized from them in the 1967 war. The Palestinian people will not stop fighting until they regain their rightful land. At the same time, the growing independence of the Persian Gulf countries and the rise of national liberation struggles in this area are pushing the imperialist countries to the wall. The stakes are high. At the bottom of all this turmoil stands the key question of who will control the oil of the Middle East. When war comes, and it cannot be avoided as long as the profit system exists, the fundamental issue will be who controls the oil of the Middle East, and even more importantly, who controls the oil of the Persian Gulf, the largest oil-producing area of the world.

Oil is the lifeblood of the industrial world, the lifeblood of the imperialist system. With its more than 90 derivatives, oil constitutes one of the most important commodities linking the different parts of the world economic system into a continuous chain, and without it, the whole system is not more than a heap of scrap. It is with this in mind that the Persian Gulf, and in general the Middle East area, has become the central region of turmoil and contention between the various industrial countries and particularly between the two world superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union.

What are the stakes? Out of the total of 61.8 billion barrels of known oil reserves in 1971, more than 360 billion barrels, or approximately 57% of all the reserves of the world, were situated in the Persian Gulf region. Western Europe alone relies on the Gulf area for 75% of its oil imports, and Japan gets 95% of its oil from there. Israel, Pakistan and India import 70% of their oil from the Gulf also. So, the stakes are the virtual control of

European and Japanese oil needs, as the needs of many other countries. The United States gets only 10% of its oil from the Gulf, destroying the lie that it must "protect" its well-being from "bad-guys".

The governments of the Soviet and the US know this only too well cause of this are only too willing to war, even if it means fighting each other. It is with this understanding that we view US presence in the area, what goals are, and what are the currencies of the two superpowers in the region.

After World War II, because its productive capacity had been left relatively untouched, the US had seized control of the Gulf area from Britain, the previous "protector" in the region. The US took over British military installations, pumping money into the various governments that existed. US troops were stationed throughout the Middle East as the US maintained wide influence, virtually challenged by other western powers. The situation began to change, especially in the early 1960's. National liberation struggles broke out and many countries that had previously been easily kept with US interests began nationalizing resources and taking independent action became necessary for the US to change its foreign "policy."

This change was to introduce the famous "Nixon-Kissinger doctrine." This doctrine was the response of US imperialism to a crumbling empire, crumbling from the blows of national liberation as the Vietnamese people are waging. Briefly, this policy was to reduce US presence while at the same time losing the ability for quick mobilization intervention when a crisis develops. The reliance on the Air Force and the Navy to back up "client" regimes as the Shah of Iran; and the development of "client" state militaries, trained and armed by the US to effectively suppress liberation movements in the area, called "policing" operations.

As ex-President Nixon explained

The top row contains three black and white photographs. The leftmost photograph shows a group of people gathered in a public square, with some individuals holding up signs or banners. The middle photograph is a map of the Persian Gulf region, highlighting the 'GULF REGION' and 'UNITED ARAB EMIRATES'. It also labels 'BAHRAIN', 'QATAR', 'SAUDI ARABIA', 'IRAN', 'KUWAIT', 'OMAN', 'YEMEN', 'SOUTHERN YEMEN', 'GULF ARAB', and 'GULF ARAB'. The rightmost photograph shows a person standing in a field, looking towards the camera, with another person visible in the background.

the rub. The peoples of the Third World are fighting back, no longer letting foreign powers dominate their resources and lives. The peoples of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau are leading the way. The Third World is demanding national liberation and forcing the imperialists to look elsewhere for profits and domination. At the same time, the worldwide struggle

What are the stakes? Out of the total of 631.8 billion barrels of known oil reserves in 1971, more than 360 billion barrels, or approximately 57% of all the reserves of the world, were situated in the Persian Gulf region. Western Europe alone relies on the Gulf area for 75% of its oil imports, and Japan gets 95% of its oil from there. Israel, Pakistan and India import 70% of their oil from the Gulf.

To comp  
servience of  
turned over o  
of Iran's rosc  
The US recei  
rights, Brita  
al-Dutch/She  
er European



# OTHER RICH MAN'S WAR



...ness about his "New Strategy for  
... in 1970, "its central thesis is that  
... United States will participate in the de-  
... and development of allies and friends,  
... that America cannot, and will not, con-  
... all the plans, design all the pro-  
... execute all the decisions and under-  
... all the defense of the free outlook of  
... world. We will help where it makes a  
... difference and is considered in our inter-

... US imperialism, the Gulf happens  
... of those areas which, in Nixon's  
... "makes a difference" and is "con-  
... in our interests." Since all major  
... countries are severely depen-  
... oil for their very existence, US  
... of oil becomes a question of para-  
... importance; with control of oil,  
... control of Europe. Moreover, since  
... has had complete dominance in the  
... any change in the status quo would  
... the weakening of US imperialism out  
... in the Middle East, but on the global  
... line well.

... In its quest to preserve the status quo,  
... began to look for an obedient "client"  
... out the necessary tasks of aggres-  
... needed to defend US interests. The  
... Iran as its main "client" in this  
... because it has the necessary charac-  
... large population, economic and  
... strength and the best geographic  
... along the northern edge of the  
... Gulf. After conniving in the over-  
... of the elected government of Iran  
... the installment of a dictator -- the  
... -- in the 1950's, the US began increas-  
... military aid to the current tune of \$4  
... billion dollars, almost all in the form of  
... heavy hardware. In addition, the Shah  
... sent over 19,000 military advisors  
... number Vietnam?).

... To complete the picture and the sub-  
... stance of Iran, the Shah has virtually  
... sold over or sold the majority interest  
... Iran's resources to US corporations.  
... US received a 40% share of Iran's oil  
... Britain got 40%, 14% went to Roy-  
... Dutch/Shell and the last 6% went to oth-  
... European interests. Even with the sup-  
... "nationalization" of oil by the Shah  
... the early 1970's, Iran's oil is still in the

... hands of foreign powers. EXXON was so  
... "disturbed" with the nationalization, they  
... put ads in the Iran newspapers thanking the  
... Shah and applauding his program.

... Iran was not the only country picked  
... for "client" status. Saudi Arabia was also  
... included in the US plans for the Gulf. By  
... arming the Saudis to the teeth, the US built  
... up a second line of defense by incorpora-  
... ting this oil rich country into the overall  
... plan. Just recently, the US announced a  
... \$3/4 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia,  
... bringing the total to more than \$2.5 billion  
... dollars in military hardware for 1974.

... On the other side of the coin is the  
... Soviet Union, displaying similar policies  
... and intentions. The Soviets have been  
... building up Iraq, a country bordering Iran.  
... They have built up Iraq's Air Force until  
... it is now larger than Iran's and the Soviets  
... have been using Iraq's Navy to gain a pre-  
... sence in the Persian Gulf waters, a vital  
... artery in transporting oil. The USSR has  
... 3,000 military advisors in Iraq and is now  
... seeking a naval base in the area. They  
... control Afghanistan and are wooing Kuwait  
... and other important sheikhdoms with mili-  
... tary and economic aid (strings attached).

... The big stumbling block in the plans  
... of both superpowers is the people of the  
... Gulf. They have been fighting to free their  
... lands from this kind of big power domina-  
... tion. Already, an independent country has  
... been won -- the People's Democratic Rep-  
... ublic of Yemen. The people of Yemen, af-  
... ter winning their independence, have been  
... constantly under attack because they rep-  
... resent a clear threat to the designs of US  
... domination. In Oman, a key country sit-  
... uated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf,  
... peasants with barely any arms have suc-  
... ceeded in liberating most of their country  
... from the rule of the feudal sheik.

... The rise of these national liberation  
... struggles has the US in a panic. Already  
... the US is funding an armed expedition by  
... Iran who has sent in 15,000 of its crack  
... US-trained troops to put down the libera-  
... tion struggle in Oman. But as in Vietnam,  
... the people of Oman have been putting these  
... orders on the run. In Iran itself, the  
... people have been fighting the dictatorship

... of the Shah, even though all opposition or-  
... ganizations are outlawed and "subversives"  
... shot. The people of the Middle East do not  
... want war and they are struggling to end the  
... threat of war by throwing off foreign domi-  
... nation and overthrowing the despotic re-  
... gimes, like the Shah of Iran.

... Increasing solidarity between Third  
... World countries has imperialism backed  
... into a corner. The recent Arab oil boycott  
... demonstrated to the world only too well  
... what that solidarity can mean. This grow-  
... ing independence coupled with the increas-  
... ingly successful struggles for liberation of  
... the people of the world is a direct blow to  
... the attempts of the superpowers to foster  
... war. With the imperialist system in cri-  
... sis and control of oil threatened, poor and  
... working people in the US are again being  
... called on to sacrifice their lives for the  
... rich. As in Vietnam, it will be a rich  
/> mao's war, and the potential for a Mid-  
/> East war to turn into a world war looms  
/> larger than ever. The two superpowers  
/> want control for themselves and no amount  
/> of "detente" will stop them from fighting  
/> each other to get it.

... As we have pointed out many times in  
/> WINTER SOLDIER, the system that is try-  
/> ing to exploit the people and resources of  
/> the Middle East is the same system that is  
/> attacking poor and working people here at  
/> home with unemployment, high prices and  
/> repression -- the system of imperialism.  
/> It wants war -- it needs war. But the peo-  
/> ple don't. Their war is a war of profits,  
/> a war to increase domination, and they  
/> are preparing us to fight for them. We  
/> won't do it! Our interest is with the free-  
/> dom and independence of all people. Our  
/> interest is in ending this wretched system  
/> once and for all!

## U.S. HANDS OFF THE MIDDLE EAST



# G.I.s FIGHT BACK!

## WAC FIGHTS ARMY RACISM

(Landstuhl, West Germany) Babette Peyton, like other black women, joined the US Army seeking an education. What followed is yet another example of military recruitment promises turned into a nightmare.

Babette's problems with the Army began on July 26, 1973 when she was assigned to the Child Psychiatric Clinic for on-the-job training as a social worker specialist. But, after two weeks at the clinic, she was asked to fill in as a receptionist. Fifteen months later she was still a receptionist. When asking her supervisors why she was not being trained as a social worker, she got evasive answers and a contradictory performance evaluation. On the one hand the job performance evaluation termed her performance as superb; on the other hand the part that is recorded on the computer would have rated her below average as compared to other E-4s.

After September 4, 1974, when she filed an official complaint on her contradictory performance evaluation, the harassment began. She was threatened with an Article 15 for her hair which she had been wearing in cornrows since she enlisted, and was harassed for wearing civilian clothes when not on duty. The reaction of the brass to her beginning to fight back against their discrim-

ination was to crack down on her individual rights and self expression.

Because of the harassment, Babette went to the Equal Opportunity Office, a sham Army "civil rights" set-up, to see if they could help her. During one of the meetings, on October 1, 1974, arranged by the Equal Opportunity Office to resolve the situation, she was called a chronic schizophrenic by her supervisor, who took advantage of his position as an expert psychiatrist.

Three weeks later, she was ordered to a psychiatric evaluation in Landstuhl hospital by the commander in charge who had previously assured her he would rectify the situation. When she asked for an investigation to be carried out, she was told repeatedly that she had to go to the psychiatric evaluation first, even though it was based on her supervisor's mere allegation. Since she had worked in the child psychiatry clinic for 15 months and visited the hospital, she was familiar with the methods used there. Babette stated, "I know that if you're not crazy when you go there, you're crazy when you get out." It is a well known fact, too, that in black and poor communities, mental institutions are used as a threat and a means to control people. Being fully



Babette Peyton

aware of the sexist and racist nature of the US military and having tried all legal means possible, she took the only course of action she saw as possible--she went AWOL.

With the firm conviction she was right in her struggle against sexism and racism in the military, and with the support of GIs and civilians in the area, Babette decided to fight the Army on its own ground. Supporting Babette, Fight Back, the local GI organization, helped build support for her trial by mobilizing GIs and civilians to show the military that people were willing to fight back against military repression. Given the people's determination to fight, the Army dropped the phoney charge of "insubordination" against Babette Peyton.

## 6 ARRESTED AT FT. MEADE GIs SUPPORT BERLIN RESISTERS

(Ft. Meade) Six members of VVAW/WSO, including one GI were arrested in front of the Ft. Meade PX on Jan. 11th while distributing copies of a GI news paper, HIGHWAY 13; they were arrested for circulating petitions addressed to the House and Senate Armed Forces Committees, calling for the conviction of the Berlin haircut resisters to be overturned. Of the six arrested, all members of the Highway 13 GI organizing project, 5 had their charges dropped. The other person, Dan Herzog, an active-duty GI, received an immediate discharge -- honorable.

The petition is being distributed in support of Bob Nuchow, a GI formerly stationed in Germany (now in the Ft. Riley, Kansas stockade) who, along with a large number of GIs in Berlin, waged a struggle with the military over the issue of haircuts.

Over a period of months, the Berlin GIs came to see their struggle to include many other issues besides just haircuts--issues such as working and

living conditions, democratic rights, and racism. Following a petition campaign which enlisted the support of over half the GIs in Berlin, as well as a large group of Dutch GIs, 17 GIs of the Berlin brigade, C Battery, 94th Artillery at Ft. McNair, went on strike to attain their demands. They realized that all other avenues of protest were futile and they needed to take direct action to push their demands.

Of their several demands, the struggle against racism had been taken up as a result of the Brass' threat to prosecute and transfer a Black GI who refused to shave his beard. They realized the Brass was trying to divide them along racial lines by transferring the Black GI. The Berlin brothers realized that the Brass' actions required them to stick together if their struggle was to be successful.

As a result of the long struggle and strike, the GIs in Berlin learned a lot about how to stick together and confront the Brass with unified action. All but

two of the strikers were given quick discharges but the Brass felt compelled to make examples of the strikers so they court-martialed two GIs, one of whom was Bob Nuchow. He was sentenced to five months at hard labor, \$1125 fine and a bust to E-1.

The group at Ft. Meade is building support for Bob Nuchow and for the whole haircut resisters' struggle. The Brass was afraid to have people talk about that struggle and support it since it hits at the heart of military oppression. The Brass doesn't want people to learn from that struggle either -- the same conditions exist everywhere in the military and the most successful way that GIs can fight back is by building the kind of militancy and unity that was shown by the GIs in Berlin. The GIs and civilians at Ft. Meade are not going to be intimidated by the Brass and the distribution of the petitions will continue while the people fight the Berlin brothers arrests.

## PART 6: VETS MOVEMENT

# "BLOODY THURSDAY" ARMY ATTACKS

On July 28, 1932, President Hoover sent in the US Army to drive the members of the Veterans Bonus Army out of Washington, DC. "Bloody Thursday" marked the last resort of a government grown desperate because of the relentless demands of its own veterans.

25,000 vets and their families were camped around the city of Washington, demanding that their Bonus be paid. By late July, the administration was running scared. The government saw the revolutionary potential in the thousands of angry vets, and further saw that the reformist and reactionary leadership of the Bonus Expeditionary Force (BEF) could not contain the vets' anger much longer. Hoover passed down an ultimatum: all vets out of DC by August 4th. He didn't wait, however; on the morning of July 28th the attack began.

The first assault came from the DC Police. Under the command of Glassford, self-proclaimed friend of vets and an early BEF leader, they moved into the area along the South side of Pennsylvania Ave near 3rd St where vets had occupied abandoned government buildings. At first there was little resistance, as vets scrambled to collect their families and the few belongings they had accumulated. But, as the police moved through the second building, vets fought back; rocks and bricks were hurled at the police. Policemen drew their guns and fired; one vet, William Hushka, an unemployed Chicago butcher who had served in Europe as a PFC at \$1 per day, was dead; Eric Carlson, an Oakland vet who had been gassed in the trenches of France, was shot and died later. President Hoover order in the second line of attack--the Army.

This was the order that Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur, had been waiting for (the order came earlier than expected, so the attack had to wait while his immaculate uniform was brought to him); with his aide, Major Dwight Eisenhower at his side, he sallied forth to take personal command. Down Pennsylvania Ave came the moun-

ted Third Cavalry, under Major George Patton, brandishing their drawn sabers. They were followed by a machine-gun detachment, infantry units, and six tanks. The troops had been specially imported into the DC area to make certain that none of them had fraternized with the vets, a reaction to the Marine Company which had earlier refused to go against the Bonus marchers. The line of troops was faced by a line of vets, separated by the troopers bayonets; though they resisted at each step, the vets had to retreat in front of the saber-waving mounted soldiers, and a barrage of gas.

The vets were pushed back across the 11th Street Bridge toward the main encampment at Anacostia. Infuriated spectators as well as the vets picked up tear gas bombs (3000 of them had been brought to Ft Myers earlier in preparation for the attack) and threw them back at the soldiers. At the Anacostia camp, soldiers stormed through the makeshift city, setting fire to the tents and shacks the marchers had built, often destroying everything vets and their families possessed. Two babies would later die as a result of the tear gas. The first Bonus March was over--the Bonus Army was dispersed out of the capital.

It was the dogged determination of the Bonus marchers which had forced the government's hand. MacArthur, trying to justify his military overkill, saw the potential of the vets more clearly than many of the marchers: "Had the President waited another week," MacArthur said, "I believe the institutions of our government would have been severely threatened." The Bonus Marchers were only a small part of the 17 million unemployed in 1932; their refusal to be tricked or co-opted by sell-out leadership, or to be bribed out of the capital, or to give in to the wretched conditions they were forced to live in--all of this was a message to working and unemployed people around the country. The government could not af-

ford to give in to the vets' demands; terrified, the government tried intimidation. But the vets movement wasn't stopped, and other people around the country weren't intimidated--there was a wave of militant strikes, of marches, of demonstrations which drew strength from the Bonus Army.

The Bonus marchers made some real mistakes. Their demands were aimed at Congress, part of the system which could never meet the needs of the people. Many of the vets saw their Bonus demands in isolation from other working peoples' needs. And, because the march was spontaneous, there was no clear organization or leadership--that is what allowed the government to slide its dupes in as leaders. Only the WESL (the Workers Ex-Servicemen's League) saw the need for organization and for unity--and they were only a small part of the Bonus Army. But, when the vets were dispersed, the rank-and-file caucus, organized by WESL, stayed in DC to prepare for a Second Bonus march.

The marchers were scattered around the country; many of those with homes to go to went home; thousands ended up in a brief encampment in Johnstown, Pa, where the mayor and local businessmen turned them into a tourist attraction. Some ended up in virtual concentration camps, supervised by the secret service, in the midst of large cities. Some went into the CCC work-camps used by Roosevelt to corral the army of the unemployed. The attempt of W. W. Waters, one of the early BEF leaders, to organize the "Khaki Shirts," an open copy of the Nazi brownshirts, failed, despite the backing of the "Key Men," a group of business tycoons who wanted their own fascist military.

The Second Bonus March, organized by the rank-and-file caucus, elected a permanent Liaison Committee to stay in Washington; future actions would have a real organization. This committee composed a three-point program--Immediate payment of the Bonus; No cuts in disability allowances (Hoover, and later Roosevelt, both tried to slash the payments to disabled vets); and immediate relief for the unemployed and farmers. The final demand, the major long-range victory of the Bonus March, would be passed later as unemployment insurance.

Around the country, growing rank-and-file vets groups joined with other people to fight for the 3-point program. In May, 1934, a Veterans Congress brought 1429 representatives from 45 states to Washington; 270 were Black; overall, they averaged 3 years unemployed. They refused to be used as a force for reaction and refused to be separated from workers; as the Congress said, "Only one thing can defeat fascism and prevent war. That is unity and mass action.... Our stand must be with our fellow workers."

(Next issue: the Vet's Movement before and after World War II.)



Bonus Marchers Battle DC Police

# WAR RESISTER RETURNS TO CONFRONT 'CLEMENCY'

"I have no intention of being part of what amounts to a continuing cover-up of the nature of the war and war resistance. I am refusing the 'earned re-entry' program and demanding total amnesty for all war resisters and real peace in Indochina." So stated Gerry Condon, a military war resister who came to the United States from Canada to talk about the government's clemency program.

Gerry Condon refused orders to go to Vietnam in 1968 while serving in the Green Berets, the special forces unit of the US Army. His refusal came about from talking to many Vietnam veterans who returned back from the war and who were sickened by the killing they had done of unarmed civilians. From this he came to see that these war crimes were a conscious part of the US military strategy in Vietnam.

He announced his intentions of refusing to participate in the Vietnam war in San Francisco. Consequently he was arrested by the military, court-martialled and sentenced in absentia, to ten years of hard labor and a dishonorable discharge, (later reduced to two years of hard labor and a bad conduct discharge.) After the first day of the court-martial Gerry realized that he would be sent to jail for resisting the war and he decided to move to Canada instead. He stayed in Canada for awhile, then went to Sweden where he lived for 2 1/2 years. He was impressed with the large anti-war movement there, and he began to work with the American Deafers Committee in Stockholm. It was in Sweden that he came to understand the war in Indochina politically.

Recently at an amnesty gathering in Washington DC, Gerry stated, "The war has been pursued in the interests of the ... Americans who own or control big business. To them domination of Indochina means immense potential profits. The vast majority of Americans ... never stood to get a very big share of those profits. And even if they had, they would not be willing to do so at the expense of another nation's life and liberty."

After actively working in Sweden, he decided to return to Canada so that he could be more in touch with the anti-war movement in the US, which had grown considerably while he was in Stockholm. He went to Vancouver, British Columbia and worked with the Vancouver American Exiles Association organizing war resisters in the struggle to end the war in Indochina and for a universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters, including draft and military resisters, veterans with bad discharges and civilians convicted for resisting the war.

During the summer of 1974, Gerry moved to Toronto where he presently

works as an editor of AMEX Magazine, and is an active member of the newly formed organization, Toronto American Exiles Association.

After President Ford announced the 'earned re-entry' program for war resisters, the exile community held a conference in Toronto and called for a boycott of the program. This boycott is supported by most American organizations that are working for an unconditional amnesty, including VVAW/WSO. As part of the continuing campaign to spread the word of the boycott, Gerry decided to come to the US to travel around the country to denounce the Ford plan. While he risks arrest and imprisonment, he feels that it is important to continue to talk about the need for a real amnesty and an end to the war in Indochina.

Gerry says that "raising the issue of amnesty is opposing the war in Indochina." He feels that the campaign for total amnesty is a campaign that unites all war resisters. As a military resister, Gerry feels strongly about the need for veterans with bad discharges to be included in the list of those in need of total amnesty. He says that many deserters and vets experienced the war first hand and as a result, a strong bond has been built between them.

"We've often been asked a question by the media, 'Even if there was an unconditional amnesty ...'

**Fight For Total Amnesty**

## BOYCOTT SHAM

In desperate attempts to inflate the number of war resisters enlisting in the government's 'earned re-entry' program, President Ford announced a one-month extension of the 'clemency' program. The program was to have ended on January 31st, but now continues through March 1st. People and organizations fighting for a universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters have called for a continuation of a boycott of the program.

The government has been using every tool at its fingertips to promote the plan. In late January, members of the Clemency Board began travelling all over the country to 'hype' the plan, recording radio and TV spots encouraging resisters to take the plan, and using newspapers and magazines to help sell the plan. They have failed miserably in these attempts! To date less than 10,000 of the estimated 137,000 resisters have made applications. All of their promotion can't change the basic fact that the clemency program is bankrupt.

Those who resisted the war in Indochina or the racism and repression of the military number closer to one mil-



Gerry Condon (l) and Sandy Rutherford, his wife. "conditional amnesty wouldn't you be afraid to go back to the US with all those people who served honorably over there? We're always happy to be able to tell them that our main support in the US comes from the veterans, many of whom were in Vietnam, and that's extremely important."

lion, rather than the low figures put out by the government. Over half of the resisters are veterans who received less-than-honorable discharges; approximately 580,000.

Millions of Americans demonstrated against the war. People did so because the war was not in the interests of the American people and worked against the interests of the Indochinese people. Those who resisted were correct, whether they were arrested, fled the draft or the military or received a bad discharge. The continuing war in Indochina, or any wars of imperialist aggression, should continue to be resisted and fought against by the people.

Until there is a universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters, the 'clemency' program will fail. The fight for total amnesty is a fight against the system that exploits and oppresses us all.

CONTINUE THE BOYCOTT!

LAWTON FRAME-UP CONTINUES

# JURY TAMPERING



Evidence of jury tampering was revealed in early February during jury selection proceedings in the trial of Gary Lawton. Gary, an activist in the Black community of Riverside, California and a member of VVAW/WSO, is being tried for the third time on frame-up charges of murdering two white Riverside police men. Both previous trials ended with hung juries with the majority of jurors voting for acquittal.

In the first two trials, the prosecution resorted to just about every vicious tactic in the book trying to railroad Gary into prison: phoned up "jailhouse" testimony from heroin addicts, sexual deviants and other police stooges were all used in this context. At one point, the prosecution's goons physically attacked members of the defense committee inside the courthouse itself in hopes of "proving" what violent people they are. Now, as the third trial gets under way, the racism and repression department of the Riverside DA's office is at it again.

The latest incident occurred when a prospective juror admitted under examination that she was afraid to sit on the jury because "the Lawton defense committee had threatened the lives of the families of the previous jurors unless they voted for acquittal!" This led to a special hearing where it was revealed that numerous members of the panel of jurors had heard this rumor and had been passing it around among themselves for a number of days; naturally, the en-

tire panel was thereby biased against Gary as a result.

While pretending to be "very upset" with such a clear-cut case of jury tampering, the DA was quick to refuse to do anything about it. The last thing the DA wanted to bring to light was the original source of the rumor. As was shown in the first two trials, the DA's office has made it clear they will try to get a conviction no matter how much evidence they have to manufacture or how many juries they have to rig; this latest incident is a stark case in point.

Overall, the racism that has surrounded the jury selection procedures in this latest trial has been absolutely gross. The jury system itself insures that poor and third world people are excluded from jury duty by a number of bureaucratic tactics and the simple economic hardship of serving on a jury and not being able to work. All of the panels of prospective jurors in the Lawton case have had only a handful of third world people on them: out of a total of 219 prospective jurors in this third trial, only 4 have been Black. Those that did manage to make it into the jury box were then kicked off, one by one, by the DA in preemptory challenges. In the latest jury panel, there were only 3 Black people to make it into the jury box. The DA then tried to frighten one of these prospective Black jurors into disqualifying herself by implying that her son had been involved in the murder Gary is

charged with and that a shotgun her husband was the murder weapon. When this failed, the DA kicked off her and the only other 2 Blacks on the panel on preemptory challenges.

As it stands now, jury selection is expected to last through March before the actual presentation of evidence begins.

## LAWTON DEFENSE WORK

VVAW/WSO has been working on the defense of Gary Lawton for over 3 years with the understanding that the court system can never be relied on to set him free: the people are the only ones that are going to do that. Through this work, VVAW/WSO has learned the necessity of tying in the defense work around Lawton with the ongoing work it is doing in the community and with the struggles of other political prisoners. Until recently, a failure to concretely understand this led to a number of errors in VVAW/WSO's work around the case that prevented building as much mass support as should have been built. Now, as VVAW/WSO is trying to put an end to this hit-or-miss approach, the result has been a slow but steady increase in its effectiveness.

The key to this progress is in bringing the issue of Gary's trial into the ongoing day-to-day work in the community. Gary's case does not stand in isolation from the innumerable other political prisoners. Rather, it is a perfect example of how the system of political repression works in the US: an example that can be linked up with support work around other political prisoners. Thus, in Buffalo, VVAW/WSO's work around Lawton is organized in conjunction with the struggles to free the Attica Brothers and Martin Sostre, while in Chicago, the chapter has been able to bring Gary's case to the work it is doing around Antwain Cauley (see p. 5).

In addition, some VVAW/WSO chapters are trying to bring the Lawton case to other areas of their work with vets and GIs; setting up speaking tours in their areas, organizing letter writing campaigns, holding picket lines at regional federal buildings, and initiating petition campaigns at the VA, on college campuses or with active-duty GIs. In Milwaukee, the chapter will be conducting a door-to-door campaign against police repression and around the Gary Lawton struggle.

By linking up these struggles and showing how they are all the result of the same system of exploitation and repression, the work is able to take on a broader, more significant character. There is a long way to go towards improving the work of building a people's movement that will free Gary Lawton and all political prisoners. But by constantly tying the Lawton work in with the struggles of other political prisoners and with the overall people's movement, ever larger numbers of people can be united against the common enemy to do just that.

## Join VVAW/WSO

For more information or the address of the nearest chapter, call or write to us at:  
827 W. Newport  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
(312) 935-2129

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## MONEY!

THE LAWTON DEFENSE DESPERATELY NEEDS MONEY! The expense of running a solid political defense is staggering and the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee (RPPDC) is flat broke. Any contributions you can send to help them continue their work are desperately needed. Send contributions to the RPPDC, P.O. Box 244, Riverside, California 92502.



In Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 1, 150 people marched to demand Jobs or Income for All. The demonstration, called by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC), had a veterans' contingent organized by the Cincinnati chapter of VVAW/WSO: it was the largest contingent in the march.

Like all working people, vets are hard hit by the current economic crisis. But, because of seniority time lost while serving in the military, vets are especially clobbered by the lay-offs. There's at least a 10% unemployment rate among Vietnam-era vets--and 20% for Black vets. The 600,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges are lucky if they can get any work at all. These are the same vets who, in return for years in the military, were paid back with a lot of promises about great benefits and job opportunities. Yet, vets find unemployment, a sore excuse for a GI Bill, inadequate training programs, miserable VA hospital care.

Despite these special problems, however, veterans in Cincinnati and around the country will not be separated from other working people--employed or unemployed. This is why VVAW/WSO joined with UWOC in the action which built both the struggle for jobs or income now and the VVAW/WSO chapter. The demands for the demonstration were: 1. Jobs! 2. Income--enough to cover the rising cost of living for as long as we are out of work! 3. Benefits--for all strikers and people who won't scab; the bosses can't use the unemployed as strikebreakers! and 4. Stop the extra high unemployment rate among Black people!

At a rally before the march, a VVAW/WSO speaker expressed the organization's solidarity with all these demands. The same economic conditions which forced poor and working people into the military to fight in Vietnam are now responsible for the epidemic of unemployment, he said. He quoted one vet who was standing in the long lines at the unemployment office: "We go from chow lines in the army to unemployment lines here; in the Army we got crummy food, now we're getting crumbs."

The militant march wound through the downtown section of Cincinnati to a park in a poor neighborhood populated by working people; community people joined in a second rally to hear speakers tell about different cases of exploitation and oppression--lay-offs, job discrimination, police attacks, especially in the Black community. All the speakers called for unity to fight back against these attacks.

VVAW/WSO helped build the march and the vets contingent with leaflets explaining why they supported the march; these were distributed at the VA Hospital and the unemployment office. To the people of Cincinnati, and to the owners of Cincinnati corporations, the message was that the people--vets and non-vets, employed and unemployed--will

# DEMAND JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL!



Cincinnati UWOC Demonstration

not quietly accept the crumbs from the system until the government decides to cut off benefits. Instead, the people will join together, putting the good of

all ahead of the good of any one segment of the people, and demand Jobs or Income for All. And that the people will fight until these demands are met.

**THROWN ON BACKS OF WORKERS**

## CRISIS DEEPENS

At least something in the economy keeps on going up--unemployment. While President Ford has found a full-time job jetting around the country to "sell his economic program," he suggests another occupation to the American worker--standing in the unemployment lines.

Allen Greenspan, the President's economic advisor who says the government ought to be giving more money to the rich because that will help the economy, gives us the cheerful word about unemployment peaking at 8.5% later in the year; however, the government figures say we reached 8.2% unemployment by the end of January--and "later in the year" is a long ways off when you've got a family to feed. That's particularly true when the average unemployment check is \$61 per week (that is the national average). The figure of 8.2% unemployed translates into 7.5 million working people, and besides that, there's a big difference between the government's statistical people and the real people who want to work, but can't find jobs--3.8 million people want full-time work and can only find part-time work. Millions are just entering the job market (and are not counted) or have given up the search (also not counted).

With less and less money to spend working people are faced with having to pay more and more in order to survive: a report from the Congress Joint Economic Committee notes that food prices for a family on a low-cost diet rose 12.7% in 1974 (foods consumed in greater quantities by poor families rose most in price in 1974).

Any way you cut it, the economy is in a mess, and the struggle just to stay alive is getting fiercer by the day.

Even labor lord George Meany, living comfortably in Bal Harbour, Florida, is compelled to say that unemployment will reach 10% and foresee that Ford won't get re-elected if the figures don't start dropping soon. Meany's solution is a Democrat in the White House.

The people's solution is something different: we know that Democrats and Republicans both operate to keep life comfortable for the profit-makers. And that the constant search for profits is what caused the problem of inflation, recession, and unemployment in the first place. The quest for profits meant that the corporations produced and produced at the same time, the owners of these factories tried to push wages down as low as they could. The result was a whole lot of products, and little money to buy the products with. So, in the typical fashion of capitalists--who care about their profits and don't give a damn about the workers--they started laying people off.

As long as all the factories, mines and plants are owned by the few, as long as the profit makers decide what is going to be produced based only on what will bring them the greatest profits, rising unemployment, soaring inflation, and deepening recession will continue. As long as the factories can lay off a couple of people--or even hundreds of people--at a time, they can keep pushing the crisis on to working people.

But people are fighting layoffs and fighting unemployment--demanding that the government provide jobs or income now. The key is unity, and unity leads to mass action. All the machines in the factories are no good without the workers who run them; and all the capitalists who own those factories are no good at

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**UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY**

# PEOPLE DEMANDING RUCHELL'S FREEDOM!



San Jose Demo to support Ruchell Magee

On Feb. 8th, a demonstration was held outside the gates of San Quentin Prison in California. 150 people demonstrated in response to a call by the February 8th Coalition, including VVAW/WSO, the Revolutionary Union, Revolutionary Student Brigade, Sedition newspaper, May 1st Workers Movement and Wei Min She (an Asian-American community organization). The action was called in support of Ruchell Magee who is now serving a life sentence on kidnap charges resulting from the heroic Marin County courthouse escape attempt in 1970.

Ruchell received this life sentence on Jan. 23rd in a San Jose courtroom. The court, afraid of the mass support that has been building to demand Ru-

chell's freedom, set the time of the sentencing for 7:30 am and gave less than 15 hours notice. Despite attempts of the courts and police to prevent it, 50 people came out to form a militant picket line to protest the sentencing. After the sentencing was over, police charged and surrounded the demonstrators, arresting 30 people on charges of "demonstrating near a courthouse." Most of those arrested were members of the organizations in the February 8th Coalition, including 2 people from VVAW/WSO.

Ruchell's struggle goes back to 1963 when he was falsely convicted of robbing \$10 after an argument and given an indeterminate sentence. Ruchell has been fighting ever since to win his freedom but has been consistently sabotaged by court-appointed lawyers and denied his most basic rights. Following years of brutality, Ruchell appeared in the Marin County courthouse in Aug. 1970, to testify on behalf of fellow prisoners. On this day, the prisoners made their bid for freedom and attempted to escape in a van, taking with them the court's presiding judge. Police opened fire on the van and indiscriminately murdered Jonathan Jackson, Judge Harold Haley and other prisoners. Following this, Ruchell was charged with murder and kidnapping. He was tried in 1972 on these charges, but the trial ended with a hung jury. Later, murder charges against Magee were dropped.

A real people's movement has been building around Ruchell's defense during the past several months. This is in contrast to Ruchell's denunciation of his former co-defendant, Angela Davis (a leading member of the Communist Party, USA and National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression). Following his sentencing, Ruchell proudly rose in court and called Angela "a pig, a rat, a snitch--a dirty snitching rat." Davis was freed by the mass support mobilized throughout the country in her defense, and has since done little to aid the fight to free Ruchell.

In his defense, Ruchell has consistently asked on question, "Does a slave have the right to rebel?" The demonstration outside San Quentin and another demonstration outside the Supreme Court in Washington, DC (also sponsored by VVAW/WSO, RSB and RU) answered that question with a definite "YES!" Chants of "Free Ruchell, It's Right to Rebel" rang through the crowds. The demonstration in Washington also focused much of its attention on the struggle of Gary Lawton (see p. 13) and chants of "Brother Lawton, Brother Magee, People's Struggle Will Set You Free" were also heard.

Ruchell Magee is a relentless fighter against oppression and an inspiration to all oppressed people. The people who rule this country think they have finally disposed of Magee; but we say to them: The people will set Ruchell free!

(The San Jose 30--arrested at the sentencing--are now awaiting trial and have formed a defense committee. They desperately need funds to cover legal costs. Please send any donations to: San Jose 30 Defense Committee, 185 N. 12th St., San Jose, CA 95112).

vvaw-wso-82/w. newport-chgo-60657

**CELEBRATE!**  
**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
**MARCH 8th**

